

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

We're Accepting Applications for High School Leadership Trip to D.C.

Pella Cooperative Electric will send one student on an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. in June.

At PCEA, one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school sophomores or juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.



One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2022 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 18-24 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications through March 25. Children of PCEA member-consumers are eligible to apply. The student must be a current sophomore or junior or currently hold the status equivalent to a sophomore or junior in an accredited home-based school. To download the application visit pella-cea.org/youth-tour.

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2022 by March 25!

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Pella, IA 50219

1-800-619-1040
www.pella-cea.org
service@pella-cea.org



Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;
excluding holidays

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Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See pella-cea.org > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

Membership Spotlight – Sun Valley Barn

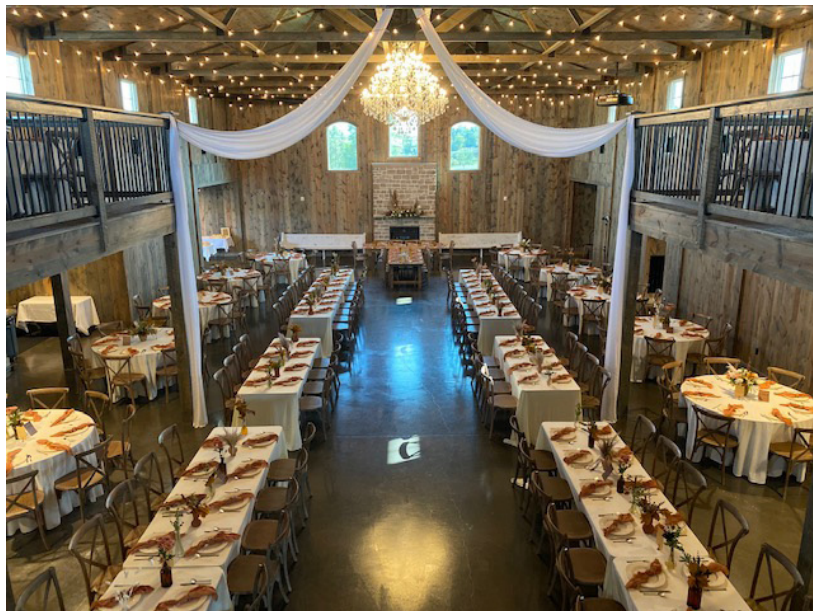
By Emma Henning | PCEA Communications Coordinator

White tulle romantically drapes from the ceiling as you step inside the barn. As the tulle catches your eyes, it leads you up to the elegant, sparkling chandelier hanging from the wooden rafters. Dreamy, relaxing music fills the barn as you admire the speckled wood boards lining the interior - giving the building its rustic charm. Floral eucalyptus garland vines along the mantle of the brick fireplace. Above, three arched windows capture natural light creating the focal point of the venue. Edison bulb lights dangle from the rafters creating a warm, delightful atmosphere.

The perfect setting to get married, host a celebration, or simply enjoy a drink with friends. Sun Valley Barn is the proud first private, stand-alone event venue in Pella.

Tucked in a valley off Fifeld Road in west Pella, Sun Valley Barn was established in 2019 by Pella natives Angie and Ron Paxton, alongside their children Courtney, Ryder, Treyton, and Brody. Originally Angie's father's land before his death in 2000, the Paxtons inherited the land and built a shop for the couple's spray foam business, Paxton and Sons.

"My family and I always got invited to weddings outside of Pella," describes Angie. "We started to realize people were having their weddings outside of town because there really weren't a lot of options here in Pella."



After attending a wedding in another barn venue a few years ago, the Paxtons sparked an idea.

"We had the land, we had the space, there's a need for it in Pella, so it just made sense to us," said Angie. "We toured quite a few venues to get ideas for what worked for them and what didn't, and they were so great to work with. The next step was to figure out what we were going to call it."

Angie's dad Leo owned the few acres in the valley and homestead when she was a child and proudly named the land Sun Valley Ranch. "Knowing my dad, it probably came from a verse in the Bible," said Angie. In honor of Leo VanderLinden, the Paxton's carried on the legacy naming the venue, Sun Valley Barn.

After several years working through the approval process, the Paxtons were thrilled to open Sun Valley Barn's doors in July 2019. Eight months later, the COVID-19 pandemic shut them down.

"Building a business for gatherings, in the same year as a global pandemic, definitely wasn't ideal," said Angie. "We had a lot of nervous nights wondering if we were going to be able to do this, but we kept the faith."

As the couple kept moving forward, they were able to host over 30 events in 2021. A large number of their events were weddings, but they also enjoyed hosting company Christmas parties, company meetings, workshops, fundraisers, classes, and so much more.

"I love seeing all the different ideas brides want for their wedding and ultimately are able to do," said Angie. "They're so fun to work with and seeing the joy of marriage at our barn is really special."

The barn comfortably seats 250 guests but can accommodate more depending on the layout. They've also recently added a lighted outdoor patio for summer events.

To book your event at Sun Valley Barn or to learn more, visit sunvalleybarn.com.



PCEA Welcomes New Employee

Spencer Nagel joined the Pella Cooperative Electric team on November 22nd as an Apprentice Lineman. A native of Lancaster, Missouri, Spencer studied at the North American Lineman Training Center in McEwen, Tennessee graduating in 2021. Welcome to the team, Spencer!



Lead Lineman Acknowledged at Statewide Annual Meeting



Left to right: IAEC President Steve Seidl, Shawn Williams, IAEC CEO Chuck Soderberg

PCEA's Lead Lineman Shawn Williams, was acknowledged for 25 years of service at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's (IAEC) Annual Meeting on December, 2nd in Des Moines, Iowa. Thank you, Shawn, for 25 years of service at PCEA!

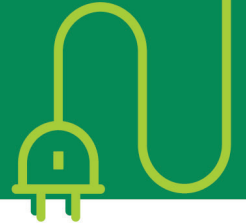
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Have a Complaint? Here's How to Report It

Pella Cooperative Electric strives to provide excellent customer service to each of our members. If a member has a problem with his/her service, please write Pella Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 106, Pella, IA 50219, call toll free at (800) 619-1040, or email us at service@pella-cea.org. We will work to resolve any issues.

If a member's complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy and Pella Cooperative Electric does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by:

- Calling (515) 725-7321 or toll-free (877) 565-4450;
- Writing to 1375 E. Court Ave., Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or
- Sending an email to customer@iub.iowa.gov

2022 Annual Meeting to be Held at Pella Christian High School

The PCEA Board of Directors and staff will host the 2022 Annual business meeting and dinner at Pella Christian High School on Tuesday, April 5. Look for more information from the co-op about the Annual Meeting and voting in the director elections by mail in upcoming issues of the *HighLines*.



2021 Annual Meeting Minutes



The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Pella Cooperative Electric Association was held in a virtual fashion utilizing video event notifications and reports prepared by the Cooperative's directors, management, staff, and legal counsel previously taped at the Cooperative's headquarters and then posted to the Cooperative's website for member viewing and participation starting at 4:00 p.m. on the 6th day of April 2021.

Duane Ver Ploeg, President of the Cooperative, presided and called the meeting to order. Bryce Arkema, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

An invocation was offered by Director Bryce Arkema. The pledge of allegiance, led by Pella Cooperative's Lance Freml, was next recited by all in attendance.

It was reported by the Secretary, Bryce Arkema, that numbers present in person (via mailed-in ballots) have been checked and that the following members were present in person: Said members' (participating by mailed-in ballots) constituting at least 50 members' of the Cooperative, President Ver Ploeg announced that the members in attendance constituted a quorum of the members of the Cooperative.

Board Secretary Bryce Arkema commented on the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Members, together with proof of mailing thereof to all members of the Cooperative, as well as the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members held July 6, 2020, which could be read by him. The meeting notice and proof of mailing were then read. A motion was duly made, seconded, and carried, to waive the reading of the Minutes. The foregoing was thereupon declared to be approved and was directed to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Board President then announced that the report of the Nominating Committee would be read at this time. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Jim O'Halloran, then presented the report of the Nominating Committee nominating the following members for directors:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 2: Darrell Boot (unopposed)
At Large: Carroll Hoksbergen/Ken Kenyon

- Directors approved the 2022 operating and capital expenditures budgets.
- The 2022 Nominating Committee names were approved and finalized.
- The Board received an operations report on the construction of line to serve a new addition in Hunter's Ridge subdivision.



The report of the committee of nominations was ordered to be identified by the Secretary and annexed to the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman then announced the Inspectors of Election for Board Membership had previously been appointed. The attorney for the Cooperative, Fred L. Dorr, then addressed the meeting to explain the election process after first reviewing the ballot for election of directors. A copy of the ballot is attached to the minutes of this meeting. The process this year included attorney Dorr meeting with the Inspectors of Election, and the inspectors then opening the mailed-in ballots, counting same and determining the results all in the presence of legal counsel and the Inspectors of Election. That ballot counting process occurred at the Cooperative headquarters on April 1, 2021.

The report of President Duane Ver Ploeg was then presented. It included recognition of the recent retirement announcement of the Cooperative's Chief Executive Officer, Jon Miles, to be effective August 31, 2021. Board President Ver Ploeg thanked Jon for his years of dedicated and exemplary service to the Cooperative, following which Jon was presented a plaque in recognition of that service. President Ver Ploeg thereafter announced that succession planning for the Cooperative's new Chief Executive Officer was underway. The President's report was then approved and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The annual report of the Chief Executive Officer, Jon Miles, was next presented. Jon concluded his report by thanking the membership, Board of Directors, and staff for the opportunity to have served as Pella Cooperative Electric Association's Chief Executive Officer for many enjoyable years. His report was thereafter approved and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election was next presented and read by the Cooperative's legal counsel, Fred Dorr, certifying that the following members receiving the highest number of votes cast, had been duly elected Directors of the Cooperative to hold the office for the term specified and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 2: Darrell Boot At-Large: Carroll Hoksbergen

Board President Ver Ploeg directed the Secretary to annex the Certificate of Inspectors of Election to the minutes of this meeting and thereupon declared such members duly elected Directors of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

(Following the adjournment of the meeting, a grand prize drawing was held for a \$1,000.00 appliance package.) There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.