

HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

JANUARY 2026

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 2026 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 14-20 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 20. 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 2026 by March 20!

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2615 Washington St.
PO Box 106
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



Board of Directors

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Duane Ver Ploeg

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Darrell Boot

Vice President
Steve Inskeep

Director
Jon Van Woerkom

Secretary
Bryce Arkema

Director
Roy Jahner

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CEO
Doug Stewart

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 > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.

Scholarship Applications Due April 24

One of Pella Cooperative Electric's principles is a concern for community. Through this principle, we believe in empowering our youth through scholarship opportunities to students looking to pursue a higher education.

PCEA awards \$1,000 scholarships in our service territory annually - one per school district - to encourage and recognize the achievements of area students.

These districts include:

- Grinnell
- Knoxville
- Lynnville-Sully
- Newton
- North Mahaska
- PCM
- Pella Christian
- Pella High
- Pleasantville
- Twin Cedars
- Home school student in any of the above districts



New this year, Pella Cooperative Electric is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for any student attending above the above schools and will be pursuing a career in the powerline industry. The student's guardians do not have to be Cooperative members. This scholarship supports students enrolled in an approved Lineworker/Powerline program at the college of their choice, helping cover educational expenses and providing a strong foundation for a future in the power industry.

To apply, visit pella-cea.org/scholarships and download the applications to complete. Return all application materials by either mail or email to:

MAIL

Pella Cooperative Electric
Attn: Emma Henning
PO Box 106
Pella, IA 50219

EMAIL

ehenning@pella-cea.org

For students not in either of the Pella districts, applications are due to the PCEA office by April 24, 2026 by 4:30 p.m. Pella students should apply through Dollars for Scholars by February 28.

The PCEA Board of Directors met on December 23 for the December board meeting and discussed the following:

- The Board of Directors approved the 2026 operating and capital budgets, reflecting continued focus on reliability, long-term planning, and responsible financial management.
- The operations department reported on ongoing construction activities. Line crews continue to work on the FEMA mitigation project in the Kilduff area, along with construction supporting the multiple housing developments across the Cooperative's service territory.
- Directors shared key takeaways from the recent IAEC Annual Meeting, where they heard from industry experts on a range of topics, including federal and state legislation affecting electric cooperatives, the future role of nuclear power, and continuing education for directors on key industry issues.

Board
Briefs

PCEA Director Re-Elected to Statewide Board of Directors

Congratulations Steve Inskeep, PCEA District 3 Director and Board Vice President on his election to the Iowa Electric Cooperative Association's (IAEC) Board of Directors.

Steve was nominated to the board in November by district 4 delegates and recently took his position following the IAEC Annual Meeting on December 5th. He was elected to a three-year term.

Steve and his wife Kim have been PCEA members since 2013. He retired after 35 years as General Manager of Knoxville Water Works and has been involved in numerous activities and committees including having served on the IAEC's Health Care Board.

Congratulations, Steve!



*Steve Inskeep
PCEA Vice President*

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 Commission 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@iuc.iowa.gov

2026 Annual Meeting to be Held at Pella Christian High School

The PCEA Board of Directors and staff will host the 2026 Annual Meeting and dinner at the Pella Christian High School on Tuesday, April 7.

The Cooperative will be serving a dinner prior to the business meeting. The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting following at 7:00 p.m.

Watch for more information about the Annual Meeting and how to vote by mail in the next few issues of HighLines as well as on our Facebook page and other social media pages.



Members enjoying dinner at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes



The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Pella Cooperative Electric Association was held at the Pella Christian High School in Pella, Iowa at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th day of April 2025.

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 invocations 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 members present in person (via mailed-in ballots) have been checked and that the following members were present and/or participating in that capacity:

Said members 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 April 2, 2024, 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.

President Ver Ploeg next recognized various guests in attendance at the meeting. In addition, he introduced board members, spouses, and staff members of the Cooperative.

Ellie Schmitz, the Cooperative's 2024 youth tour representative, provided a well-presented video explanation of her trip to Washington, D.C. She concluded her remarks with a thank you to the Cooperative for that opportunity.

The Board President then announced that the report of the Nominating Committee would be read at this time. The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Amy Olsen, then presented the report of the Nominating Committee nominating the following members for directors:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 3: Steve Inskeep (unopposed)

At-Large: Brian Hauser, Roy Jahner, Steve Nunnikhoven

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

The report of President Duane Ver Ploeg was then presented. It included a summary of Cooperative operations for the previous year along with a brief explanation of Pella Cooperative's relationship with its wholesale power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO). The President's report was then approved and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The annaul report of the Chief Executive Officer, Doug Stewart, was next presented. He reviewed operating results for the past year and commented on crew safety and wind and solar energy issues. He also expressed his appreciation for the Cooperative's staff for their quality support and member assistance. His report was thereafter approved and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election, certifying that the following members receiving the highest number of votes cast had been duly elected Directors of the Cooperative will hold office for the term specified and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 3: Steve Inskeep

At-Large: Roy Jahner

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 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 home improvement certificate, along with several door prizes being awarded.)

There be no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.