

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Take an Active Role in PCEA's Election

Serve on the Nominating Committee!



Pella Cooperative Electric Association is looking for members to serve on the nominating committee. The committee serves the membership by seeking members to run for election to the PCEA Board of Directors.

Committee members learn and follow the policies and processes of being a nominating committee member, which are found in the co-op's bylaws. The committee meets at least once between December and the April 5, 2022 annual meeting.

If you're interested in serving on the nominating committee or have any questions about the process, don't hesitate to call the cooperative at 1-800-619-1040.



PCEA's 2020 Nominating Committee

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

President
Duane Ver Ploeg

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Darrell Boot

Vice President
Steve Inskeep

Director
Carroll Hoksbergen

Secretary
Bryce Arkema

Director
Jon Van Woerkom

Treasurer
Bob Van Soelen

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.

Honoring All Who've Served



*Journeyman Lineman
Matt Ainsworth*



*Journeyman Lineman
Lance Freml*

Thursday, November 11 is Veterans Day - a day to recognize and thank our military veterans who have served our country. Pella Cooperative Electric is proud to recognize two employees who wore the uniform and served our great country.

PCEA Journeyman Lineman Matt Ainsworth served in the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserves from 2001-2007.

PCEA Journeyman Lineman Lance Freml served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2003-2007.

Thank you Matt and Lance for serving our country and to all our veterans for protecting our freedoms.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- President John F. Kennedy



Have you ever had questions about your electric bill? Do you wonder about your historical usage? If you've ever had questions about your account, our innovative web and mobile app, SmartHub, can provide some answers.

SmartHub is available through Pella Cooperative Electric's website and as a free mobile app through the Apple App Store or Google Play Marketplace.

Learn more at www.pella-cea.org/smarthub

PCEA Welcomes New Employee

Emma Henning, Communications Coordinator

PCEA welcomes Emma Henning to the team as the communications coordinator. Emma holds a bachelors degree in agricultural journalism from Iowa State University. She grew up on a family farm outside of Guthrie Center, Iowa and was previously employed as an editor at *Successful Farming* magazine as well as Iowa Corn.



Is Your Home's Envelope Well Sealed?

Most of the time, when we think of the word envelope, we think of the outer covering that our mail comes in. Or, to irritate our kids or coworker, we might push the envelope.

However, your home's envelope consists of its outer walls, windows, doors and other openings. A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can reduce your energy use — and, in turn, your utility bills.

According to EnergyStar.gov, a whopping 9 out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated. Homeowners can save an average of 15% on heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors, over crawl spaces and basements.

To determine if your home's envelope is in good shape, Pella Cooperative Electric and Safe Electricity recommend having a home energy audit conducted to pinpoint the leaks that allow energy to escape your home — air-conditioned air in the summer and heated air in the winter. A qualified energy auditor will include an insulation check as part of a whole-house energy assessment and will identify areas of your home that need air sealing or insulation repairs.



DIY home energy audit

If you would like to complete your own DIY audit, find out the following:

- The type of insulation in your home.
- The R-value (rate of thermal resistance) of your insulation. Typically, the higher the R-value, the more effective it is at insulating. Depending on where you live, you do not necessarily need the highest value; it depends on your local climate.
- The thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation you have.

In a newer home, the builder can help identify the type of insulation used and where it is located. In an older home, you will need to perform the inspection yourself. To complete a DIY energy assessment, you will need to check the following items:

In the attic

- A general rule of thumb when inspecting the attic insulation is that if the insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation.
- If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you probably have enough, and adding more insulation may not be cost-effective.
- Insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots; be sure to check throughout the attic to determine if there are any thin spots.
- Make sure the insulation in your attic has the appropriate R-value for where you live. Check the value printed on your existing insulation. If you cannot find the value, measure the depth of the insulation in inches. Multiply the depth by the following insulation type: 3.2 for fiberglass batting, for the loose fibers category, multiply by 2.5 for loose fiberglass, 2.8 for rock wool and 3.7 for cellulose. Then check EnergyStar.gov's recommended R-values. If your calculated value is less than the recommended levels for your region, then you should consider adding more insulation to your attic.

Behind the walls











- Turn off the power to the outlet before beginning this check. Then use a voltmeter or voltage tester to confirm that there is no power at the socket before beginning work.
- Remove the outlet cover and shine a flashlight into the crack around the outlet box. You should be able to see if there is insulation in the wall and possibly how thick it is.
- Pull out a small amount of insulation if needed to help determine the type of insulation.
- Check outlets on all floors, as well as old and new parts of your home. Just because you find insulation in one wall does not mean that it is uniform throughout your home.

Electrical Safety: Prepare for a Safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with family and friends to eat home cooked food, watch the parade or football and travel to see loved ones. However while enjoying the holiday, things can get hectic and safety doesn't always end up on the top of everyone's lists.

This Thanksgiving Day, PCEA wants to make sure you and your family have a fun but safe holiday in and out of the kitchen. Thanksgiving is the #1 day of the year for cooking fires with more than 4,000 fires occurring, according to the U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission. Follow these safety tips and tricks for an extra safe holiday!



-  Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop or oven to keep an eye on the food.
-  Keep children at least three feet away from a hot stove.
-  Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
-  Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
-  Make sure fire extinguishers are easily accessible in the cooking areas.
-  If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
-  Make sure smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.
-  Never connect extension cords concurrently if they are not long enough.
-  Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical cords.
-  Prevent fires by making sure your oven and stovetop are clean and free of grease and dust. You should clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
THE PCEA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 26 & 27

