

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Member Appreciation Day Review

This year the cooperative drew five members to receive a **\$25.00 credit** on their electric bill in celebration of Member Appreciation Day. Congratulations to the following members:

- Tim Vander Schel
- Brian Ver Meer
- Clint Vonk
- Louis Norton
- Rick Van Gorp



Duane Ver Ploeg, board president directing members.

As members began arriving, hamburgers and hotdogs were being grilled for our second Member Appreciation Day drive-thru BBQ on September 18. Members pulled through the cooperative's parking lot

receiving a meal and gift served by cooperative directors and employees. PCEA was excited to serve over 775 people!

Thank you for attending our Member Appreciation Day drive-thru BBQ and allowing Pella Cooperative to celebrate you, our members.



PCEA employees getting meals ready.



Members line up around the cooperative to pick up their meal.

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.

October is Cooperative Month



Electric cooperatives power 56% of the nation's landmass, from booming suburbs to remote rural farming communities. Unlike investor-owned and municipal utilities, the purpose of a cooperative, above all else, is to provide reliable, affordable electric service to its membership. In recognition of National Co-op Month in October, let's look at the ways the cooperative model differs from other utilities.

You're a member, not a customer.

Cooperatives are unique because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the cooperative board of directors and can run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative.

We focus on service, not profits.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for stakeholders, electric cooperatives do not earn profits. Instead, any margins remaining (after all expenses have been paid) are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

We're local and community focused.

Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power, electric cooperatives are involved in many local community development programs.

We're committed to innovation.

We answer to local members rather than far away shareholders and are able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the local communities and members that we serve.

Iowa Youth Leadership Academy

When?

- October – Cooperative Month
 - Oct 5 – 7 p.m. > Cooperative Business Model
 - Oct 14 – 7 p.m. > Rural Iowa Advocacy
 - Oct 26 – 7 p.m. > Civic Involvement/Leadership

Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



You may call 888.480.9707 to make a payment with your credit/debit card.

Learn more at www.pella-cea.org/smarthub for more payment options.

Forget to Pay Your Bill? Sign up for Automatic Bill Pay



Automatic Bill Payment Form

Authorization Agreement

Automatic Bill Payment service is offered at no additional cost for members of Pella Cooperative Electric. The service provides monthly electronic transfer payments that save members the trouble of writing checks to pay their bill and postage costs.

I hereby authorize Pella Cooperative Electric to initiate variable debit entries to my account at the financial institution named below for payment of my monthly electric bill. I will continue to receive a monthly bill. The bill will state in the bottom right-hand corner "Bank Draft DO NOT PAY". The amount of my bill will be deducted from my account on the 1st of the month. (if that day should fall on a weekend or holiday, the deduction will be processed on the following business day.)

It is also understood that I agree to be bound by the operating rules and guidelines of the National Automated Clearing House Association and shall have rights set forth here with respect to all entries initiated by Pella Cooperative Electric pursuant to this agreement.

It is understood that this agreement may be terminated by me (or either of us) by written or verbal notice to Pella Cooperative Electric. This notice must be received by the 20th of the month to prevent a bank draft that month.

Bank Account Information

Name of Financial Institution: _____

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

_____ Checking _____ Savings

Signature

Authorized Signature (Primary): _____ Date: _____

Authorized Signature (Joint): _____ Date: _____

Electric Account Information

Electric Account Number(s): _____

Name (as it appears on electric bill) _____

Complete this form and mail along with your **voided check**.

Mail to: Pella Cooperative Electric
PO Box 106
Pella, Iowa 50219

--- Staple voided check here ---

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Don't Sacrifice Safety for Speed During Harvest



For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible, in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines, can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agriculture workers have a dangerous occupation. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

“Large farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its height and because of how often power lines run parallel to country roads. Every farm worker should keep an eye out for low-hanging lines when entering or leaving a field and learn what to do if their equipment comes into contact with an overhead line.

If you are a farm operator or worker, keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- ✓ Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.

- ✓ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines – at all times, in all directions.
- ✓ Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- ✓ Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- ✓ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.,
- ✓ If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.
- ✓ If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME WILL end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 7. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed! It's also a great time to use the hour you gain by testing your smoke alarms and replacing the batteries if needed.

Board Briefs

- Board members attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region 5 meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to discuss national governance issues alongside Illinois and Wisconsin directors.
- PCEA's operation department gave an update on the progress of the new Thunder Creek Substation, located northeast of Pella. The substation is expected to go live in early 2022.
- The board heard an update on the United States Department of Agriculture grant to fund the construction project of Forward with Faith in Pella.