

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

OCTOBER 2025

Thank You, Members!

Nearly 1,000 PCEA members turned out for this year's Member Appreciation Day Drive-Thru BBQ Sept. 13.

For more than two hours, a steady stream of cars pulled through the co-op's shop to receive a member gift and a sack lunch of either hamburgers or hot dogs. Thank you to everyone who came out on a beautiful Saturday - we appreciate you!

Members of the Marion County Cattlemen handled the grill to serve up the tasty burgers and hot dogs while PCEA staff and board members put together the lunch bags and handed them out.

In the week leading up to the event, the co-op randomly drew five lucky winners to receive a \$25 bill credit. Congratulations to these PCEA members:

- Henry Black
- Kristen Van Polen
- Marcus DeNooy
- Joe Vandewall
- Stacy Rowson



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
Jon Van Woerkom

Secretary
Bryce Arkema

Director
Roy Jahner

Treasurer
Carroll Hoksbergen

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.

Iowa's Co-ops Celebrate National Co-op Month

It's October which means it's time to celebrate National Co-op Month! Again this year, Iowa's electric cooperatives are partnering with the Iowa Credit Union League and the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives to spread the word about the positive impact cooperatives have on Iowa. As part of the celebration, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation to declare October as Co-op Month in Iowa.

We're proud of our cooperative heritage of being locally owned and governed with a mission to improve quality of life for our member-owners. At Pella Cooperative Electric, we are democratically controlled by our members through an elected board of directors who make long-term decisions for the cooperative. All co-ops are guided by 7 Cooperative Principles, which is a key reason why electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities; we always put the needs of our members first.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram this month as we celebrate the cooperative difference. Learn more about the cooperative advantage at www.IowaCooperatives.com.

THESE ARE THE WORDS WE LIVE BY.

- 

1
Voluntary
& Open
Membership
- 

2
Democratic
Member
Control
- 

3
Members'
Economic
Participation
- 

4
Autonomy
&
Independence
- 

5
Education,
Training &
Information
- 

6
Cooperation
Among
Cooperatives
- 

7
Concern
for
Community



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



CEO Doug Stewart Serves on Rural Economic Development Panel

On August 25, Pella Cooperative Electric Association CEO Doug Stewart joined a rural economic development panel during the Greater Des Moines Partnership 101 Event at the MidAmerican Energy RecPlex.

This event aims to strengthen connections between Iowa's rural communities and Iowa's Congressional delegation and their staff. Partnership 101 provided staffers with an opportunity to learn more about economic projects happening around the state.

Panel participants:

- Doug Stewart, CEO, Pella Cooperative Electric Association
- Kate Bowermaster, workforce development director, Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce
- Monica Chavez-Silva, vice president of community engagement & strategic planning, Grinnell College
- Brenda Dudley, director, Midwest Partnership Economic Development
- Alex Lynch, director of regional community integration, Greater Des Moines Partnership (moderator)



Doug Stewart on the Rural Economic Development Panel.

The panel discussion emphasized the importance of collaboration among rural communities and addressed the growing challenges facing rural Iowa. Doug Stewart shared insights from his leadership experience, highlighting the impact of the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG) Program. He provided examples of how rural electric cooperatives have successfully applied for federal loans and grants to support their rural communities. The panel also addressed shared challenges such as housing, childcare, and workforce in their communities. They also discussed creative approaches to meet these local needs.

Prioritizing Safety: Lineman Crew Complete Pole Top Rescue Competency Training

At Pella Cooperative Electric, safety isn't just a policy — it's a core value that drives everything we do. In May, our team took part in one of our most important annual exercises including the annual pole top rescue training.

This hands-on training equips our employees with the skills and confidence to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations, particularly those that can occur at elevated heights and to other crew members. As part of the drill, our linemen practiced simulated rescue scenarios, including how to safely rescue a crew member in the event they become incapacitated.

Whether it's extreme weather, high-voltage equipment, or working at elevated heights, linework carries inherent risks. That's why regular safety training is critical —not only to protect our employees, but also to ensure reliable service to our members. These exercises strengthen our response capabilities, sharpen our teamwork, and reinforce our commitment to keeping everyone safe.

We're proud of the professionalism and preparedness our team brings to every job and trainings like this are just one example of how we're continually investing in a culture of safety.



Shawn Williams completing pole top rescue training.

Need Help with Your Heating Bill?

The 2025-2026 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps 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.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026.
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026.

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 18 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; and
- 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.

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	\$31,300
2	\$42,300
3	\$53,300
4	\$64,300
5	\$75,300
6	\$86,300
7	\$97,300
8	\$108,300

For households with more than eight members, add \$11,000 for each additional member.

