

HIGHLINES

February 2020

A publication for members of Pella Cooperative Electric



Absentee Voting Open

The 84th Annual Meeting of Pella Cooperative Electric will soon be here. If you know that you will be unable to attend the meeting April 7, you can still cast your vote, because your vote counts!

You can participate in the Annual Meeting and vote for board members by requesting an absentee ballot. In order for a PCEA member to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot, the member must request the ballot in writing, and include name, address and account number.

Requests for absentee ballots must be received no later than March 10, 2020. The ballot will be mailed to you and must be received back in our office no later than April 1, 2020 either in person or by mail to Pella Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 106, Pella, IA 50219.

Pella Cooperative Electric will count properly completed absentee ballots that are received in our office by April 1. Once we have received a member's absentee ballot, it cannot be revoked or changed. If the member decides to attend the Annual Meeting, the absentee ballot is the one that will be counted.

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.!



Visit www.pella-cea.org for the application and details on how to apply.

Van Zante Plans Retirement from PCEA Board

Norman Van Zante will retire from the Pella Cooperative Electric Board of Directors in April after completing his current three-year term. He announced his decision during the November board meeting.

Representing District 1, Norman has served on the board for 39 years. He serves as vice president of the Cooperative. He was first elected to the Pella Cooperative Electric Board in 1981 when he was asked to put his name on the ballot at the annual meeting. Over the years, members have continued to trust and respect Norman's stewardship and dedication to the Cooperative.



To keep up to date with the continually changing electric industry, Norman has attended formal training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, the Board Leadership Certificate, and the Director Gold Credential, the highest level of training offered by NRECA.

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Iowa Congressional Delegation United to Fix Electric Co-op Tax Problem

Submitted by Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

It's no secret that Washington politics have become so polarized that it can be tough for Democrats and Republicans to come together to tackle challenges that their constituents face. But that's exactly what happened recently on Capitol Hill thanks to Iowa's Congressional delegation.

Our senators and representatives listened to thousands of electric cooperative stakeholders as they fought tirelessly to add important tax and retirement policies to the 2020 spending bill. The bill was signed into law before Christmas and included a provision known as the RURAL Act, which solved an existential issue for electric co-ops and America's rural communities.

Locally owned electric co-ops work to secure government grants to help pay for numerous activities that benefit the communities they serve. These include grants for storm recovery and mitigation, broadband deployment, renewable energy and economic development.

In order to maintain their tax-exempt status, electric co-ops must receive no more than 15 percent of their income from non-member sources. Historically, government grants to co-ops were counted as contributions to capital. But due to a glitch in the 2017 tax law, government grants were reclassified as income, pushing some co-ops beyond the 15 percent threshold and jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

The tax problem left co-ops with a broad dilemma: Do they take the money they need to turn the lights back on for their members as quickly as possible after a disaster? Do they accept the broadband grants to help close the digital divide between rural and urban America? Or do they turn down those grants so they wouldn't have

to spend critical funds when the tax bill comes due?

Had the unintended consequences of the tax change been in place prior to 2018, some of Iowa's electric cooperatives may have experienced several instances where they would have lost their tax-exempt status for the year.

Thanks to Congress, electric co-ops across America won't have to make those impossible choices. This is good news for both co-ops and their member-owners because some co-ops may have had to raise their electric rates to pay new taxes.

On behalf of Iowa's electric cooperatives, we are extremely grateful to Senator Joni Ernst, Congresswomen Cindy Axne and Abby Finkenauer, and Congressmen Dave Loebsack and Steve King for their support of the stand-alone RURAL Act. And without Senator Chuck Grassley ensuring the provision was included in the final negotiations on the congressional budget bill, those painful scenarios would have begun to play out in co-op board rooms across the country. In standing up for Iowa's rural communities, they proved that Congress can still work for the people.

Notably, the legislation drew the bipartisan support of more than 350 of the 535 Federal lawmakers. That's a rarity in Washington these days. In today's fast-paced society, pausing to give thanks is done with increasing rarity. That's unfortunate.

Thank you to all our Federal legislators. Thank you for looking out for rural communities across Iowa and thank you for working with us to solve this problem.



PCEA Scholarship Application Deadline May 1

Do you have a senior in high school getting ready for college? Pella Cooperative Electric is proud to offer students in its service territory opportunities to advance their education.

As your electric cooperative, we like to encourage and recognize the achievements of our area students, and our scholarships give us the opportunity to do so.

In 2020, we will award three scholarships. Two scholarships are available through the Pella Dollars for Scholars program and are available to one Pella Christian High School senior and one Pella High School senior. The third scholarship will be awarded to a senior at any other high school or home-schooled student.

Scholarship applicants must have parents or guardians who are members of Pella Cooperative Electric and plan to continue their education at a two-year or four-year institution. The At-Large scholarship recipients will be selected by a committee of individuals.

The deadline for applications is May 1. Apply and find more information at www.pella-cea.org, visit with your guidance counselor, or visit the Pella Dollars for Scholars website, where there are several tools for finding more area and national scholarships for your student.



- A new record was set for kWh hours sold in the month of November.
- New water heater incentives were approved.
- Regional Vice President of CFC Darrin Lynch presented the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA).

Board Briefs

February's board meeting is scheduled for February 27.

Help Us Locate Missing Members

Current members of Pella Cooperative Electric Association received their capital credits retirements as a line item credit on their December bill. Former members of the cooperative who were active in 2002 and 2018 should have received a check by mail for their capital credits retirements. The list below are members whose checks were returned to the cooperative due to outdated mailing information. If you know the correct billing address for anyone listed below, please contact the cooperative with that information or have the former member contact us at (800) 619-1040.

Arnett, James	Garvey, Michael & Judy	Morrison, Alan	Shepperd, Chris
Atkin, Shirley	Gearhart, Matt & Mindy	Murphy, Clyde	Shinn, Thomas
Birkel, Jim	Gary, Dan	Murphy, Marilyn	Sims, Scott
Boyd, Mildred	Guillien, Vince	Navarro, Sergio	Sires, Sommer
Broach, Bob	Harvey Products, Inc.	Nguyen, Thing	Slagle, Denise
Bruxvoort, Jim & Kathy	Harvey, Russell	Nichols, Matthew	Sneller, Allen
Buckingham, Matt & Joy	Hawks, Dan	Noftsger, Derrick	Spierenburg, Marinus & Ruth
Budding, Eric	Howard, John	Pierson, Nick	Stevens, Kathy
Burger, Andrea	Hupp, Nathan & Connie	Pinkston, Harold	Stratford, Beverly
Buser Sr., Fred	Hutchinson, Matt & Lisa	Pollock, Mike & Lorna	Sullivan, Stephen
Call, Brett & Sherry	IES Commercial	Precision Industries Inc.	Swan, Richard
Church, Michael	Iowa Telecom	Prism Projection Inc.	Terlouw, Keith & Mariann
Cochran, Randall	Jakubiak, Brian	Riggen, Larry	Thomas, Laura
Criss, Larry	Jansen, Bruce	Rodgers, Andy & Angela	Tucker, Justin
Crook, Blythe	Jensen, James & Tami	Rohrdanz, Carroll	V.R. Farms, Inc.
DBA Outdoor Enterprises	Jin, Jeremy	Ross, Dave & Jamie	Van Dusseldorp, Felicia
De Zwarte, Troy	Kellar, Eric	Rozenboom, Dennis & Kathleen	Van Wyk, David
Dethrow, Wesley	Klassen, Dan	Rozendall, Bruce	Van Wyk, Elmer
Digital Solutions	Kuiper, Gail	Rubendall, Dan	Van Wyk, Lucas
Doty, Rick	Lahvic, Joseph	Schipull, Allen & Carol	Van Waardhuizen, Jim
Dunkin, Alberta	Lemons, Charles	Schwartz, Monty	Vogel, Dennis
Ellinwood Studios	Long, David	Sedlock, Joe	Vroom, Brian
Estness, Marvin	Lynas, Hugh & Vicki	Sharp, Dave & Dottie	Wallace, Ron
Fontanini, Gino & Linda	Max, Rev. Homer	Shepard, Cathy	Wouterse, Gary
Frederick, Ken	Michalek, Brendan & Deb	Shepard Jr., Jack	Wright, Craig



BUILDING A NEW HOME?

Find out how you can save on costs by incorporating energy efficient, high performance insulation and windows, heating and cooling, water heating and appliances.

www.pella-cea.org

Pella Cooperative Electric
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

See more residential rebates on pg. 4

Van Zante...from pg. 1

Over the years he has attended training and workshops and represented the interest of electric cooperatives locally, regionally, and nationally. Norman represented Pella Cooperative Electric 15 years on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) and represented CIPCO on the Central Iowa Energy Cooperative.

Norman is a farmer and has been a member of the Cooperative 56 years. He is also retiring from the board of Marion County Mutual Insurance where he serves as president. Through the years he has also been active in Farm Bureau and his church.

We wish to extend deep appreciation and sincere thanks to Norman for his years of service and dedication to the Board of Directors of Pella Cooperative Electric and wish him the best in the future.

Bright Idea



Are you using your wood burning fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire and close the damper when a fire isn't burning. You can make it more energy efficient by using glass doors as well to limit the amount of room air sucked into the chimney. Glass doors also work well when a fire is burning down for the night and you must leave the damper open. *Source: energy.gov*

2020 Rebates Now Available

Now is the time to take advantage of Pella Cooperative Electric's rebate incentive program. Rebates are offered to residential, commercial and agricultural cooperative members.

We have listed the residential rebates below, but if you are an agriculture or commercial member, visit pella-cea.org to see what is available to you.

Because rebate qualifications vary, review the appropriate rebate form for the requirements prior to purchase. As a reminder, members planning to apply for rebates should keep receipts and must fill out the appropriate rebate form to qualify. If you have questions regarding the rebates, please contact Stan Eysink, Member Service Manager, at (800) 619-1040.

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Standard Air-Source Heat Pump (including mini-splits)	\$200/ton
Hybrid Air-Source Heat Pump	\$300/ton
ENERGY STAR® Bonus (min. 1.5-ton, SEER 15.0, HSPF 8.5, EER 12.5)	\$250/unit

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP

Closed Loop System	\$450/ton
Open Loop System (no "pump & dump" systems)	\$300/ton
Unit Compressor Replacement	\$150/ton

ENERGY STAR CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING

ENERGY STAR qualified (min. SEER 15.0 & EER 12.5) <i>Limit 2 A/C rebates per account</i>	\$100/unit
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INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) <i>Limit 2 HRVs per account</i>	\$250/unit
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DRAIN WATER HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEM

Heat Recovery Pipe System <i>Not to exceed cost of system. Must have an electric water heater. Homemade systems are not eligible.</i>	\$450/unit
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ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

Clothes Washer <i>Unit replacement, and water heater is electric</i>	\$40/unit
Clothes Dryer - electric <i>Unit Replacement</i>	\$20/unit

INTERIOR LIGHTING

ENERGY STAR Hard-Wired or LED Fixtures with screw-in adapters <i>Account limit of \$600 applied over a 5-year period (installs prior to 1/1/15 are exempt)</i>	50% of price up to \$5/ fixture
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ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Level II Charger Installation (240/208-volt input supply) <i>Limit 1 rebate per account</i>	50% up to \$500 limit
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OUTDOOR SECURITY LIGHTING

ENERGY STAR or DesignLight Consortium Qualified LED Fixtures	
• 20-34W	\$10/fixture
• 35-40W	\$20/fixture
• 50-74W	\$40/fixture
• 75-124W	\$50/fixture
• ≥125W	\$60/fixture

WEATHERIZATION

NON-LIHEAP MEMBERS

Electric Heat (with or without A/C)	
Attic/ceiling insulation	60% up to \$600
Wall insulation	60% up to \$600
Foundation insulation	60% up to \$600
Infiltration control	60% up to \$200
Duct insulation/sealing	60% up to \$200
Maximum incentive per account	\$2,200
Central A/C Only (non-electric heating)	
Attic/ceiling insulation	15% up to \$150
Wall insulation	15% up to \$150
Maximum incentive per account	\$300

LIHEAP QUALIFIED MEMBERS

Electric Heat (with or without A/C)	
Attic/ceiling insulation	80% up to \$800
Wall insulation	80% up to \$800
Foundation insulation	80% up to \$800
Infiltration control	80% up to \$200
Duct insulation/sealing	80% up to \$200
Maximum incentive per account	\$2,800
Central A/C Only (non-electric heating)	
Attic/ceiling insulation	20% up to \$150
Wall insulation	20% up to \$150
Maximum incentive per account	\$300

REQUIREMENTS (LIHEAP AND NON-LIHEAP)

- Must have electric heat and/or central air (homes with natural gas do not qualify).
- Home must be built prior to 2000.
- Must be upgraded to existing home (new additions do not qualify).
- Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included)

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Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative. The co-op exists to provide electric service at cost. It is the members (anyone who gets electricity from the cooperative), not outside investors, that own and control the co-op. Cooperatives are governed by a member-elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See pella-cea.org > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

Board of Directors: Bryce Arkema, Darrell Boot, Carroll Hoksbergen, Steve Inskeep, Bob Van Soelen, Norman Van Zante, Duane Ver Ploeg, and CEO Jon Miles.