

WITH MEMBERS OF PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Front row, from left: District 5: Ron Lentz; Jerry Norris; and Advisory Member Josh Amonson. Back row, from left: James Post; Bradley Buns; and Advisory Members Ted Hall and Scott Stecher.

Seeking candidates for two board positions

At the June 7, 2017, annual meeting of members, director terms in Districts 2 and 5 will expire. Directors Jim Wellik (District 2) and Marion Denger (District 5) will seek re-election.

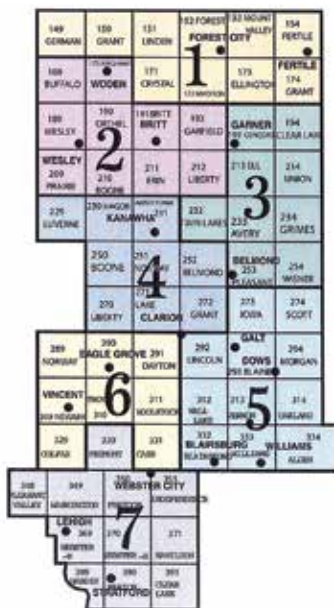
To be considered eligible for election, members must reside or receive electric service from Prairie Energy at a location within the district in which they are seeking election. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please contact or send information to one of the nominating committee members listed.

District 2: Bradley Buns
670 330th St
Woden IA 50484
641-565-3347

James Post
3301 250th Ave
Titonka IA 50480
515-928-2329

District 5: Ronald Lentz
3112 Washington Ave
Dows IA 50071
515-852-3302

Jerry Norris
PO Box 307
Dows IA 50071
515-852-4499



Connect with us on Facebook

You're connected with friends, classmates and family on Facebook – but are you connected with your electric cooperative? Get the latest on energy savings tips, major outage updates and co-op news on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative.

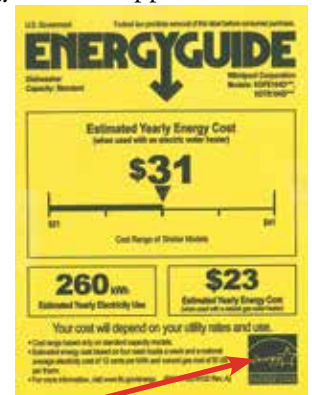


Rebates for 2017

From appliances to heating and cooling to insulation and weatherization – small changes can mean big energy savings. In 2017, we will continue to offer members a variety of incentives for new energy-efficient appliances, lighting, insulation, water heaters, and electric heat.

Don't forget that new clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers, and refrigerators must be ENERGY STAR rated to qualify for a rebate from us. Rebates for qualifying new appliances are:

- **Clothes Washer - \$50**
- **Dishwasher - \$25**
- **Freezer - \$25**
- **Refrigerator - \$25**



Call Prairie Energy or check out all our rebates at www.prairieenergy.coop

The importance of interconnection agreements

Electric cooperatives are responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable electric grid to power the communities they serve. As an increasing number of consumers install grid-connected distributed generation systems, like solar panels, electric co-ops are prepared to assist members while still maintaining the safety of the grid.

Grid-connected generation systems allow you to power your home or business with renewable energy, but the system must be connected to the grid to keep power flowing when the alternative source, such as the sun, is not available. In most cases, these systems must be interconnected to feed excess power back into the electric grid.

Co-op members interested in distributed generation systems for their home or business should contact their electric cooperative first. We want to help you choose a system that includes the safety and power quality components necessary to keep everyone safe. If a storm hits and a power outage occurs, for example, distributed generation systems must be able to properly disconnect from the electric grid to ensure lineworkers are not injured or electrocuted while restoring power.

An interconnection agreement must be reviewed and signed before your distributed generation system is connected to the electric grid. The agreement is intended to ensure safe, reliable, and quality electric service for all.

In addition to safety concerns, members interested in dis-



When considering a renewable system, such as a solar array, remember that your utility needs a 30-day notice for connection. If notice is not given, we can refuse to connect the system.

tributed generation systems should contact their cooperative to review applicable metering rates. When grid-connected systems generate more electricity than you can use, the excess electricity is fed back into the grid and used elsewhere.

The way we generate and use electricity is evolving. If you have questions about grid-connected generation systems, please contact us. Let's work together to ensure a safe, reliable electric system.

A solid investment in your electric co-op

As a member of your electric cooperative, you make an investment in the co-op every time you pay your bill. This benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The monthly facility or service charge is an investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. Combatting cyber security threats and

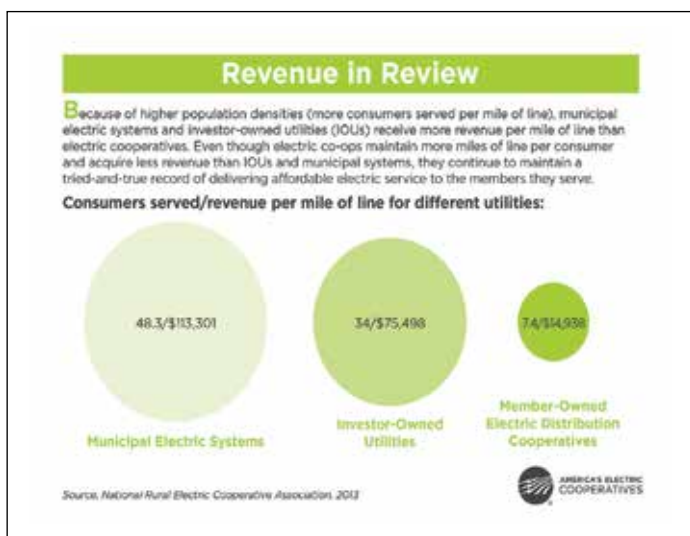
maintaining poles, wires, substations, and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The monthly charge essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly and staff is trained and ready so the lights turn on when you need them.

The cost of delivering power to every house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the charge each month. This gives each co-op member an equal share in their cooperative's operation.

We appreciate the investment and strive to use it wisely for the benefit of all members of our community.



Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it.



Sign up for auto pay and win a prize!

Sign up for auto payment between now and March 31, 2017, and we'll enter your name in a drawing for a \$50 bill credit. All you need to do is complete and sign the authorization form below.

Attach a blank check with the word VOID written across the face of the check and return the completed form to:

Clarion Headquarters or Garner District Office
2099 Highway 3 West 600 West Third Street
PO Box 353 Garner, Iowa 50438-1211
Clarion, Iowa 50525-0353 641-923-2654 or
515-532-2805 or **888-225-8707**
800-728-0013

You will receive your statement marked ****BANK DRAFT – DO NOT PAY****. Five working days before the due date of each month (or next banking day), we notify your bank or financial institution of the amount to be transferred from your account to pay your electric bill. Your bank deducts that amount from your account no sooner than the due date (or next banking day).

I (we) hereby authorize Prairie Energy Cooperative, to initiate debit entries to my (our) CHECKING _____ SAVINGS _____ account (select one) in the financial institution (BANK) named below. I (we) further authorize the BANK to debit such entries to my (our) account.

DEPOSITORY (BANK) NAME _____

BANK ROUTING # _____

ACCOUNT # _____

BRANCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

BANK TELEPHONE # (____) _____ - _____

It is understood that this agreement may be terminated by me (either of us) at any time up to five business days before the due date of the current month billing by oral or written notice to Prairie Energy Cooperative. Any such notification to Prairie Energy Cooperative shall be effective only with respect to entries initiated after receipt of such notification.

It is also understood that I (we) agree to be bound by the Operating Rules and guidelines of the National Automated Clearing House Association and shall have the rights set forth here with respect to all entries initiated by Prairie Energy Cooperative pursuant to this agreement.

Depositors Signature Date

Depositors Signature (if 2 are required) Date

Prairie Energy Cooperative use only

Account No. _____

Account No. _____

Managing physical threats to grid reliability

While the threat of cybersecurity attacks on the electric grid get a lot of attention these days, physical damage from storms or critters is much more likely to disrupt power. It takes proactive commitment to consistently deliver reliable service. Even something as small as a squirrel can damage infrastructure and cause outages.

If the lights do go out, we're ready to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible. Here are three key ways that we work to keep your power as reliable as possible:

1. Being part of the community.

Electric cooperatives know our communities. We live and work in the neighborhoods and towns we serve. Our board members and employees are personally acquainted with or are a part of fire departments, county supervisors, EMTs, etc.

We know that emergencies can happen at any time, and these relationships are important in urgently responding to unplanned events or in preparing for more predictable events, including winter storms or summer flooding. Cooperation among cooperatives is an essential principle of providing reliable electric service.

2. Planning, preparing and practicing.

There is a well-known saying *that it's not if a crisis will occur, but when it will occur*. What constitutes a crisis can mean different things to member-owners, depending on the role electricity plays in their daily lives or businesses. We test our disaster and business continuity plans regularly and pride ourselves on being prepared at all times. Business activities, such as vegetation management or pole inspections, are strategically performed to proactively reduce threats. Trees that are too close to power lines can cause major damage during a storm and may result in a lengthy outage.

3. Coordinating with stakeholders.

Prairie Energy works closely with fellow cooperatives, our state and national electric associations along with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on matters of critical infrastructure protection. This includes sharing needed information about potential threats and working together to avoid disruptions to the extent possible.

Although the grid is incredibly resilient and can withstand many physical impacts, it's also a dynamic infrastructure that requires constant attention. We are vigilant in ensuring we protect the grid from physical and cyber threats in order to power your lives!

A WORD FROM



Becky Bradburn
Executive VP/General Manager

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.