

# ACEC NEWS

APRIL 2025 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 04

YOUTH TOUR  
REPRESENTATIVES

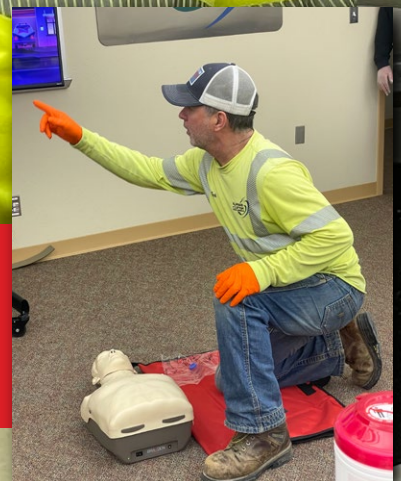
GRAIN BIN SAFETY

REC DAY ON  
THE HILL



**ACEC SAFETY FIRST**

See Page 4.







## A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

**Hollie McCormick**  
EVP/General Manager

# LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

Lineworkers begin their day early, clad in flame-resistant clothing and often wearing safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots as well. The moment they arrive at work, their mindset must be ready for the day. With safety always top of mind, they're ready for whatever tasks lie ahead.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrated Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers need strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

ACEC crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our 2,500 miles of line. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible. Electricity truly is a lifeline that connects us all.



1. They are expertly trained to work on power lines and equipment.
2. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining power.
3. They have a heart for service, always looking out for their communities.
4. They conquer heights without hesitation.
5. They prioritize safety every second of every day.
6. They answer the call – day or night – to restore power.
7. They work in extreme weather conditions.
8. They go when and where they are needed, supporting communities nationwide when severe weather strikes.
9. They have each other's backs and work together like family.
10. They power our lives and energize our communities!

Thank you, lineworkers, for all you do to keep the lights on.

In moments when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge and activate a swift response for restoring normalcy. We truly forget how good we have it when it comes to reliability, as very seldom do we experience outages. I'm guilty myself, as when the power goes out, we are stunned at what we can no longer do! Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, lineworkers' unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most. **#134**

ACEC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize them and thank them.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to keeping those lights on. ■

## BOARD BRIEFS March 31 Meeting

- Approved updated check signing resolution
- Set Annual Meeting date; Sept. 8, 2025
- Approved holding a vote at this upcoming Annual Meeting on a Bylaw & Articles of Incorporation change regarding variable number of directors serving on the board
- Discussed virtual board meeting participation
- Selected candidates to serve on Nominating Committee
- Approved City of McGregor Resolution for A9 Electric Rate Agreement
- Jeni Kolsrud provided IT updates and training
- Approved Annual IUC Filing and Reliability Plan
- Approved a donation request from Allamakee County Fair



# Enyart, Palmer Chosen for Youth Tour

Congratulations to ACEC Youth Tour winners **Olivia Enyart** and **Hayden Palmer**. Olivia is a sophomore at Postville High School and is the daughter of Brian and Monica, Postville. Hayden is a junior at Waukon High School, and is the son of Robert and Sharon Palmer, Monona.

This year's ACEC winners will join nearly 40 other students in Iowa and about 1,800 students nationwide on the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. During the June 15-21 trip, the students will experience running their own snack cooperative, visit the Franklin D. Roosevelt Monument, visit the Capitol and state representatives and more.

In order to qualify, students must be sophomores or juniors and be members of ACEC. The students fill out an application and learn more about Cooperatives. From there, they attend an interview night, where they are judged on things like Cooperative knowledge and communication skills.

Thank you to judges Connie Euans, Calmar, Shelly Elliott, Waukon, and Jared Funk, Elkader, for their time as judges this year! ■



Olivia Enyart



Hayden Palmer



Judges  
**Connie Euans**,  
Calmar,  
**Shelly Elliott**,  
Waukon, and  
**Jared Funk**,  
Elkader

## NEW 24/7 Secure Pay-By-Phone Number

*Call 855-940-3913 to pay your bill*

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative has a new 24/7 secure pay-by-phone number. To make a payment on your bill over the phone with a credit/debit card or a check, call **855-940-3913**.

This system is automated, and all of your personal information will be entered by you. At any time, you may hang up to discontinue the call. This line is available anytime, day or night, even on the holidays.

If you have any questions about the secure pay-by-phone or any of our payment options, please call our office at 888-788-1551. ■

## SURVEY

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative is conducting an energy use survey to help Dairyland Power Cooperative plan for future energy needs. Some residential members will be randomly selected to participate in this survey. Surveys will be mailed this month. Completing this survey should take about 10 minutes. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelop by May 31 or complete it online.

## BILLING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS



### SMARTHUB

Take control of your account from your computer, smart-phone or tablet.



### By Mail

Mail check or money order to PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162.



### AUTOPAY

Set up automatic payments from your bank or credit card account.



### PAPERLESS

View your bill electronically. Enroll in paperless billing through SmartHub.



### ONE TIME PAYMENT

Call **855-951-1988** to pay using your bank or credit card.



### VISIT

Make a payment in person at our office located at 229 Hwy 51, Postville, IA.



# Safety First at ACEC

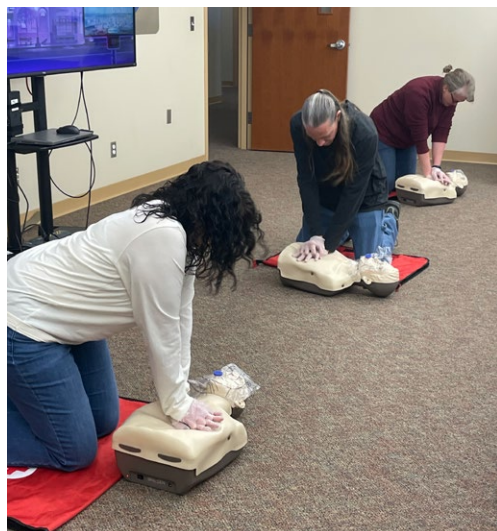
*At Allamakee-Clayton REC, we live by the phrase "Safety First."*

From our line workers to customer service representatives to AC Skyways technicians, the top goal every day is to get home safely.

It's not just a comment we say or a logo we put on a wall. It's something we practice daily.

It's in our commitment to wear a seatbelt each and every time we get in a vehicle. It's in the way we practice pole top rescue techniques every year. It's why we check our first aid kits regularly to make sure we're prepared in an emergency.

Every year, ACEC Compliance and Training Coordinator Brad Pecinovsky makes sure our staff is up-to-date on safety trainings in a variety of areas. As a team, we meet with Brad every month to go over what we're seeing in the field, what other co-ops are experiencing and brush up on safety topics like OSHA updates, properly using rubber gloves, tree trimming safety and more.



"The Cooperative is focused on the health, safety and well-being of all employees," said Pecinovsky. "Our employees are the most valuable asset in providing our members with safe and reliable electricity and internet service. It takes training and dedication of all employees to safely operate the Cooperative on a daily basis.

"We work in a highly regulated industry with constant changes related to work practices, transportation and environmental compliance, so it's important to provide your employees training opportunities to effectively and safely perform their job duties."



## First Aid

Recently, lineworkers and office staff completed the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED training. Everyone at ACEC is encouraged to complete the training every two years to stay up-to-date on current practices.

During the training, our staff learned about how to perform CPR on adults, the correct use of an AED and proper first aid techniques, as well as how to keep ourselves safe during a medical emergency. **#4509-XX**

"You never know when you're going to encounter a medical emergency. We want to make sure our entire staff is knowledgeable and comfortable providing safe and efficient medical assistance to another coworker or a



member of their community," said ACEC GM/EVP Hollee McCormick.

## Other Trainings

Throughout the year, Pecinovsky works to schedule various trainings that will be beneficial to ACEC staff while on the job, in the office and away from their work. These trainings all help create the overall safety culture at the Co-op.



"We also focus on communication among employees to ensure workplace safety. While all employees encounter different levels of risk in their job duties, we stress the importance of speaking up when someone notices a hazard that could impact the safe completion of a project," said Pecinovsky. "Our employees are very open about sharing a close call they encountered to make co-workers aware and to prevent a similar situation from happening again. The willingness of employees to openly discuss and implement operational changes displays their strong commitment to safety." ■



# 2025 Rec Day on the Hill

## Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives Advocate to Protect Defined Service Territory During

Severe blizzard conditions in western and northern Iowa couldn't hold back employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives (RECs) as they convened at the Iowa Capitol to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event March 19.

"Our annual advocacy day at the state house is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact the members and communities we serve," remarked Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

ACEC's Ryan Wagner, along with directors Al Steffens and Jerry Keleher, also made the trip to Des Moines for the event.

More than 120 advocates asked elected officials to protect defined electric service territory laws in Iowa that support affordable rates, foster a resilient grid and encourage rural economic development. In place for almost 50 years, these service territories provide a high degree of certainty which enable electric co-ops to make long-term investments to best serve our members. Learn more about this issue at [www.ProtectRuralIowa.com](http://www.ProtectRuralIowa.com).

Additionally, electric co-op representatives talked with their legislators about the benefits of allowing Iowa's incumbent electric providers the right of first refusal (ROFR) in



constructing and maintaining electric transmission projects, as included in the governor's energy bill (HF 834/SF 585).

The group also discussed concerns with a community solar bill (HF 404) that would undercut defined electric service territory and allow nonutilities to provide retail electric service within rate-regulated utility territory.

During the event, co-op advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model including local ownership, democratic governance and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, investments in technology, electric safety, reliable power generation and student programs.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org). ■

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams

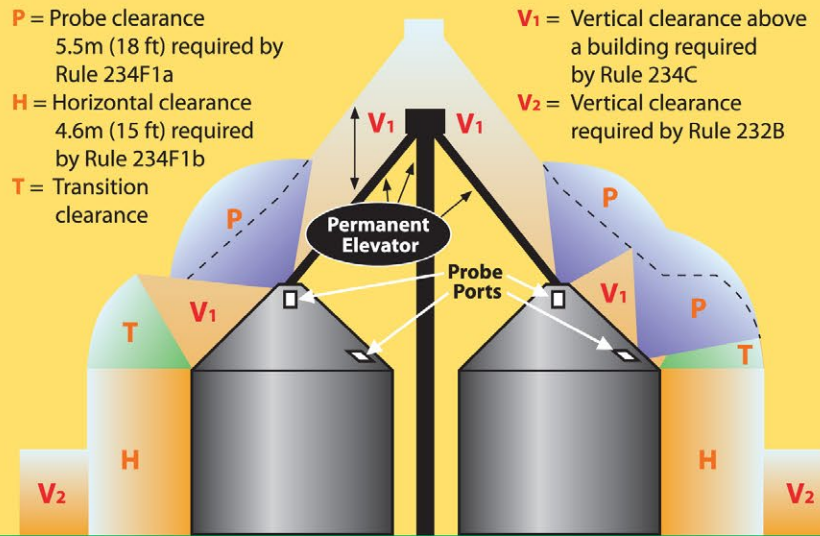


# Maintain Proper Clearance Around Grain Bins

The state of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators. According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199-25.2(3) b: *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after Sept. 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after Dec. 24, 1997.* The Iowa Utilities Commission has adopted this language.

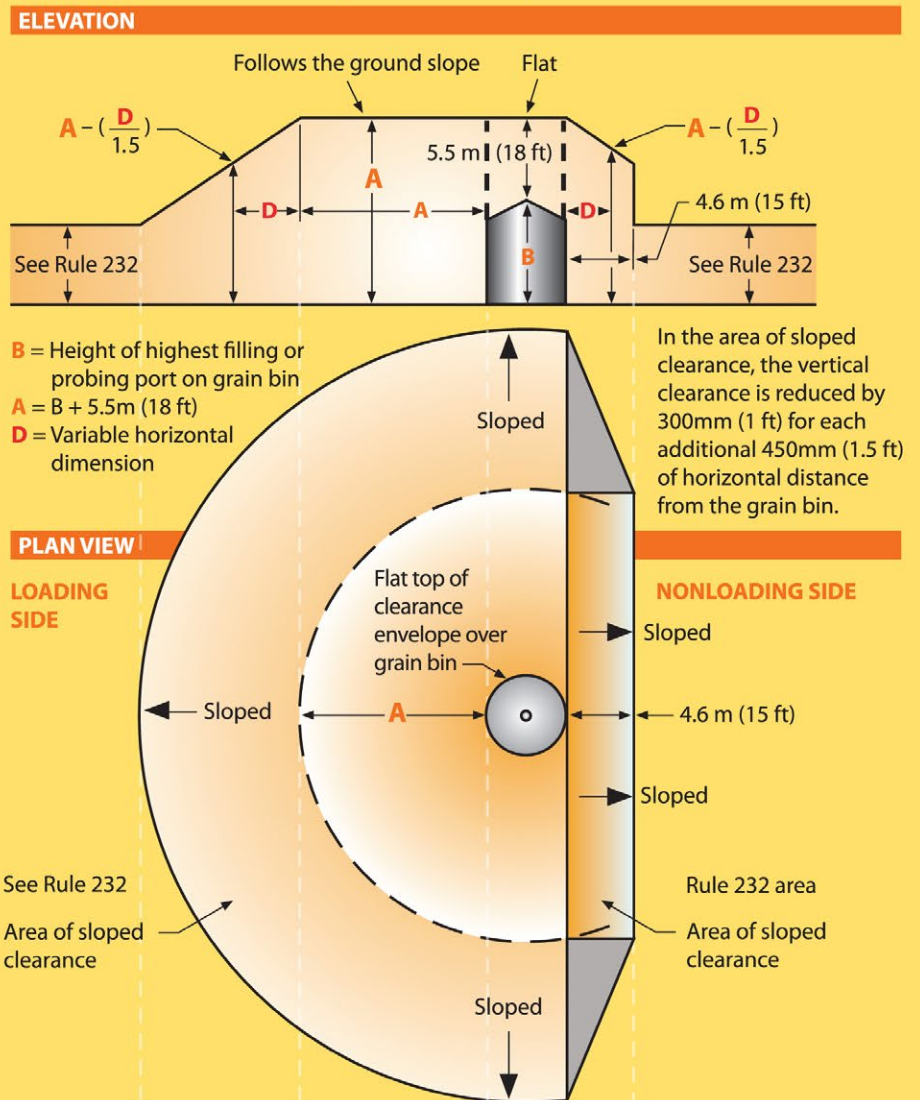
Your local electric cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Commission to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants and city and county zoning officials. The drawings on this page show the required clearances. If you have any questions concerning these regulations – or what needs to be done before you begin placing a new grain bin or moving an existing one – please call ACEC at 888-788-1551. ■ #6156

## Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.

## Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators



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# MEMBER RECIPES

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jennifer Achenbach, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email [jachenbach@acrec.coop](mailto:jachenbach@acrec.coop).

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before the intended publication.

May – **BEEF**; June – **SEAFOOD**; July – **BEVERAGES**



## PIZZA MONKEY BREAD

- 2 cans refrigerator biscuits
- 5 oz. pepperoni (2 cups)
- 8 oz. mozzarella cheese (2 cups)
- ½ c. Parmesan cheese
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 2 c. tomato sauce

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Cut refrigerator biscuits into ¼ pieces. Add refrigerator biscuits, pepperoni, mozzarella, Parmesan cheese, Italian seasoning and garlic powder in a large bowl and toss together. Add mixture to a bundt pan that has been sprayed with non-stick spray. Bake for 30-40 minutes. If biscuits start to turn brown, you can cover the pan with aluminum foil. Serve with a bowl of spaghetti/tomato sauce for dipping.

■ *Nancy Einck, Waukon*

## EASY GARLIC BREAD CASSEROLE

- 1 ½ lb. browned ground beef
- 1 box of 8 count cheese Texas toast
- 2 c. spaghetti sauce
- 2 c. shredded cheese
- 1 tsp. olive oil

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Take a medium-size skillet. Add a tsp. of olive oil and brown your ground beef over medium-high heat. Add black pepper and salt to taste. Next add spaghetti sauce to ground beef. Heat the meat and sauce. Spray baking dish with Pam. Place bread slices in the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish. Spoon meat/sauce mixture on top of garlic toast. Add a layer of cheese. Bake for 20 minutes until you have melted the cheese.

Remove from oven and enjoy. Kid-friendly recipe.

■ *Jeanne Kruckenberg, Postville*

## EASY PULL-APART GARLIC ROLLS

- 12 dinner rolls
- ½ c. unsalted butter, melted
- 3 garlic cloves
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. fresh or dried parsley
- ½ c. grated Parmesan cheese

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Line a 9x13 baking pan with aluminum foil so there is about 6 inches overhang on each side. Cut a crisscross pattern into the tops of each dinner roll, stopping about ½ inch from the bottom of the roll (do not cut all the way through the roll). Place the rolls into the prepared baking pan. In a small bowl, mix together the melted butter, garlic, salt and parsley. Pry open the slits in rolls and drizzle some of the melted butter mixture in between, trying to evenly divide it between all the rolls. Then sprinkle the Parmesan cheese into each roll. Pull the foil overhang up and over the rolls and seal closed. Bake for 15 minutes, then open the foil and bake for an additional 5 minutes or until the tops are lightly browned and the Parmesan cheese has melted. Serve immediately.

■ *Barb Kaiser, Monona*

# CYBER SECURITY Tip of the MONTH

## Keep a Clean Machine

Sometimes, cybercriminals spend time tailoring a phishing email just for you. They might know your name, your job, your address or the names of people you know. They might glean this data from social media or other publicly available sources. This is called "spearphishing," as in, the scammer has to target you specifically with their message.

Because of this, be wary of any unexpected message with a sense of urgency, even if the sender seems to know who you are. ■

~ Courtesy of [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org)

Sponsored by

**AC SKYWAYS**  
INTERNET SOLUTIONS  
BY ALLAMAKEE & CLAYTON  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **one is worth \$17.50, one is worth \$10.00 and one is worth \$5.00.** The service location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



## CONTACT ACEC

### HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715  
Postville, IA 52162

### PHONE NUMBERS

**LOCAL** 563-864-7611

**TOLL-FREE** 888-788-1551

**PAYMENT LINE 24/7** 833-284-5051

**UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING**  
811

**SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS**

800-864-1611

### WEBSITE

acrec.com

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

### IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**AL STEFFENS**, President, Clermont

**MICHAEL D. GIBBS**, Vice President, Waterville

**CINDY HEFFERN**, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry

**ROGER ARTHUR**, Sumner

**JEFF BRADLEY**, Wadena

**NELSON CONVERSE**, Postville

**GREG FORMANEK**, Farmersburg

**JERRY KELEHER**, Elkader

**BRICE WOOD**, Lansing

### MANAGEMENT STAFF

**HOLLEE McCORMICK**, EVP/General Manager

**JENNIFER ACHENBACH**, Manager,  
Marketing & Communications

**DAVID DECKER**, Director,  
Finance & Administrative Services

**BRENDA HACKMAN**, Manager, Economic  
Development & Community Relations

**JENI KOLSRUD**, Manager, Information  
Technology

**JASON TROENDLE**, Director,  
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**RYAN WAGNER**, Manager, Member Services



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## ELECTRIC CO-OP SERVICE DENSITY compared to OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Electric cooperatives maintain more power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities.

*Even though we serve fewer consumers per mile of line, we will always go the extra mile for our members.*

### Electric Cooperatives

**8**

Consumers Served  
per Mile of Line

### Other Electric Utilities

**32**

Consumers Served  
per Mile of Line

