

ACEC NEWS

JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 01

Represent ACEC in
Washington, D.C.
during the annual
Youth Tour



2023 REBATE
PROGRAM
LAUNCHED

ACEC ANSWERS
THE CALL TO HELP
EMPLOYEE SERVICE
MILESTONES

TWO LOCAL
BUSINESSES
HELPED BY ACEC



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

ALLAMAKEE-CLAYTON ELECTRIC CO-OP HELPS MAKE POLITICS LOCAL

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. We just had a great meeting with our local and State representation in November. We do this every fall, and it is a great opportunity to visit about key issues prior to the start of the Legislative Session. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

Providing industry guidance and expertise

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why we work to be a trusted partner; providing guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who have been in the energy industry for many years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more. **#45**

Our staff provide briefings and background to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

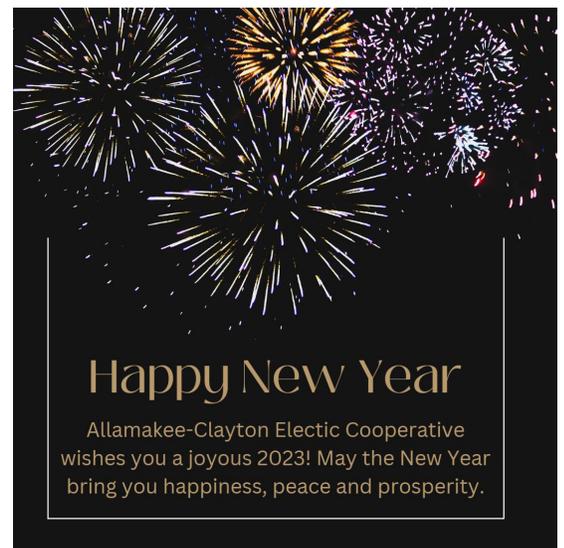
Iowa’s 90th General Assembly Legislative Session began on January 9. Here’s to a productive, sensible Session that strengthens the quality of our State. ■



Last month, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op sent four linemen to Barron, Wisconsin, to assist Barron Electric following a snow storm. Josh Abbott, Jason Donnelly, Jason Nefzger and Brent Schutte spent several days assisting with power restoration after a heavy snowfall.

BOARD BRIEFS December 27 Meeting

- Reviewed and approved write-off of 2022 Delinquent Accounts
- Approved Patronage Estate Discount Rate for 2023
- Appointed and approved voting delegates and alternates to associate organizations
- Reviewed and approved changes to Board Governance Policy 422 “Director’s Compensation”
- Approved submission of a grant application for a Grid Innovative Program
- Approved donations to the following organizations: Northeast Iowa Community Action, Partners in Vocational Education, NRECA International, and Northeast Iowa Wellness & Recreation Center



YOUTH INFORMATION

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRIP TO D.C.

ACREC will send 2 students on an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., in June



Caden Evanson and Riley Troendle represented the Co-op for the 2022 Youth Tour. Both students were sophomores from Kee High.

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school sophomores and juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

Two students will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2023 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 17-23, along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications through Tuesday, January 31. Children of ACREC members are eligible to apply. Applicants must be a current sophomore or junior in high school. Students must complete the application and return it to ACREC by the deadline. All applicants will complete an open-book exam. The Co-op will interview the students with the top-five scores and will choose two finalists to go to Washington, D.C. You can download our form at www.acrec.com/youth-tour or stop by our office for a printed copy. Contact Jennifer Achenbach, manager of marketing and communications, at jachenbach@acrec.coop or (563) 864-7611 for more information. ■

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR AREA SENIORS

Graduating high school seniors entering a course of study in the electric field are encouraged to apply for a cooperative Hauschild Memorial Scholarship. Students' parents or guardians are not required to be ACEC members but must reside within the boundaries of our service area.

Applications are available at acrec.com and at the Co-op office. The application deadline is Tuesday, February 28. Completed applications can be returned to Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Att.: Scholarships, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162.

The scholarship fund was established in 1995 in memory of Robert Hauschild by his wife and family. This annual scholarship(s) recognizes Bill's dedication and service as a director of the Cooperative from his election September 10, 1998, until his death March 17, 1993.



2022 SERVICE MILESTONES



15 Years

Andrew Henderson
First Class Lineman

20 Years

Donna Schultz
Cashier/Collections
Representative

20 Years

Jack Regan
Hot Line Foreman

30 Years

Jeff Cox
Line Crew Foreman

30 Years

Tim Bauch
Line Superintendent



JENNIFER ACHENBACH JOINS ACEC

Jennifer Achenbach is the newest member of the ACEC team. She joined us December 19 as the Manager of Marketing and Communications. Jennifer has 10 years of journalism experience, having worked for various newspapers in Northeast Iowa. Most recently, she spent five years at Luther College on the marketing and communication team, as well as the admissions department. She also freelances for Driftless Multimedia.

Jenn has a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Journalism and in Health and Sport Studies from the University of Iowa. A member of the Co-op, she and her husband, Brent, live outside Harpers Ferry with their two children, Chance, 7, and Paige, 4. Brent is self-employed as a hoof trimmer. Their children attend school in the Allamakee district. ■

2023 INCENTIVE REBATES

It's a new year and a new opportunity for ACEC members to save on energy efficient purchases. Allamakee-Clayton's program will remain similar to 2022, offering rebates on many items, including clothes washers, electric water heaters, HVAC units (air source heat pumps and geothermal units), lighting and more. ACEC annually publishes a list of energy efficient items that are eligible for a rebate when a member makes a qualifying purchase and submits the required paperwork.

Listed on each form is the eligibility criteria for each category. Rebates begin at \$0.50 up to \$800 for certain items. To receive the rebate, the member must purchase a qualifying item, fill out the appropriate form and return the form and documentation to the Co-op within three months of purchase or installation (clarified on the form). Members must

install equipment within the Cooperative's service territory and, in most cases, must be ENERGY STAR® rated. **#3904A**

"Technology improves every year, which makes energy efficient products more affordable and readily available for our members," said Hollee McCormick, general manager. "Our partnership with Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, to offer a robust program is a great example of cooperation among cooperatives to not only power our local communities, but also help improve quality of life for members."

Rebate forms are available at acrec.com. Please contact member services manager Ryan Wagner, rwagner@acrec.com.

REBATES and INCENTIVES

For Energy Efficiency Products and Improvements



SAVE \$\$\$!



coop, with questions regarding ACEC's rebate program or general energy efficiency. ■

The only change to the 2023 rebate program is heat pump clothes dryers are no longer eligible for a rebate. If you purchased an electric heat pump clothes dryer before Dec. 31, 2022, a 2022 rebate form may be submitted along with required documentation within three months of the purchase date.



Agricultural/Commercial/Industrial			
Commercial Vending Machine Controls		\$25	each
Circulation Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 pounds force/kW Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 pounds force/kW	\$1	inch
Exhaust Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP	\$1	inch
Electric Forklift Battery Charger	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$200	each
Dairy Plate Cooler / Well Water Pre-Cooler		\$500	each
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery with Electric Backup	Used with controlled electric water heater as defined by coop	\$300	each
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer	≤ 500 watts, insulated tank	\$50	each
Scroll Refrigerant Compressor	\$1,000 cap per compressor	\$30	HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	\$1,000 cap per drive	\$30	HP
Appliances			
Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR, must be electric	\$25	each
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dishwasher	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Inductive Range	All inductive ranges qualify	\$25	each
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Recycling - Freezer	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Refrigerator	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Room Air Conditioner	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Audits/Assessments			
Audit Recommended Improvements	\$500 cap	varies	each
Compressed Air Audit	\$500 cap	varies	each
HVAC			
Heat Pump - Air Source & Mini-Split	SEER 14+, HSPF 8.2+, or EER 11+	\$300	ton
Heat Pump - Commercial Air Source & PTHPs	< 20 tons: EER 11+ 20 to < 60 tons: EER 10.5+ ≥ 60 ton: EER 10+	\$300	ton
Heat Pump - Geothermal		\$500	ton
New Furnace with ECM Blower Motor	Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) "or" Eac ≤ 670 kWh/year	\$35	each
Lighting			
LED Lamp (Residential)	5 lamp minimum	\$0.50	lamp
LED Lamp (Non-Residential)	5 lamp minimum	\$0.50	lamp
LED Fixture (Non-Residential)		\$0.50	per 800 lumens
LED Exit Sign		\$5	sign
Occupancy Sensor	Doesn't include motion detector fixtures	\$5	each
Miscellaneous			
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with integrated metering	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$800	each
Touchstone Energy® Home Program			
New Home	Must meet 1 of 3 program/code requirements	\$500	each
Water Heating			
Commercial Water Heater 75-99 gallons		\$150	each
Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons		\$300	each
Residential Water Heater 75-99 gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$150	each
Residential Water Heater 100+ gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$300	each
Heat Pump Water Heater	Integrated (all-in-one) units, Uniform Energy Factor 2.00+	\$300	each
Solar Storage Water Heater w/Electric Auxiliary Tank	75-99 Gallons	\$150	each
Solar Storage Water Heater w/Electric Auxiliary Tank	100+ Gallons	\$300	each

The required documentation listed below must be submitted no later than 3 months after purchase or installation:

- ✓ Incentive form (found at www.acrec.com).
- ✓ A copy of your receipt or invoice for each item with purchase price(s) circled.
- ✓ ENERGY STAR label for each item, if applicable.
- ✓ Documentation showing appliance was in working order prior to recycling, if applicable.
Incentive not to exceed equipment cost.



Rebate forms available at acrec.com

K9 COUNTRY OPENS ITS DOORS



The ACEC Board of Directors approved a revolving loan to assist K9 Country to purchase equipment for their new dog boarding and dog daycare facility, located outside of Colesburg. The owners, Laura and Mindy Meyer are ACEC members and the new business which opened in Dec. 2022, is also on ACEC lines. For more information on K9 Country's dog daycare or boarding, call (563) 880-4752 or visit K9 Country's Facebook page. **#36254**

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative supports the economic development efforts of area communities by awarding loans through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Program (REDLG) and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). These programs improve the quality of life for members and the communities we serve.

ACEC has played key roles in several important development projects, through financial support, energy assistance and economic development. When we work with your business or organization, we can help you by putting you in touch with the right people; those who are prepared to provide the specific kind of help and resources you need to assist you. ■

Contact Brenda Hackman at bhackman@acrec.coop or 563-605-6026 for more information about:
 USDA Rural Development Loan Programs
 ACEC USDA Revolving Loan Fund



Pictured with check: L-R Laura and Mindy Myers with their son, Jackson, and Brenda Hackman, ACEC Manager of Economic Development and Community Relations

ACEC HELPS ACCESS \$1.5 MILLION FOR CHILD CARE CENTER

ACEC, along with MiEnergy Cooperative (Cresco/Rushford, Minn.) and Dairyland Power Cooperative, joined forces to support a new childcare facility in Decorah.

Sunflower Child Development Center is constructing a new 29,000 square foot facility called the Northeast Iowa Child Development and Discovery Center. Located at 902 Commerce Drive, construction began on the project last fall. The new facility will replace the current, aging center and will support a capacity of 215 children, with room to expand beyond 300.

A check presentation was held on December 13, with contributions from all three cooperatives. ACEC accessed \$1.5 million on behalf of the center through the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. MiEnergy helped access \$1.86 million through the same program. Dairyland donated \$5,000 - \$2,500 from Dairyland and a match from CoBank, a national cooperative bank, through CoBank's Sharing Success Program.

"Childcare is a critical necessity for the community," says



Representatives from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, MiEnergy Cooperative and Dairyland Power presented checks to Sunflower Child Development Center for the new childcare facility last month.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative Executive VP/ General Manager Hollee McCormick, adding how this will not only help Winneshiek County but also all of the families in neighboring communities.

The new facility will include 19 classrooms, with direct access to age-appropriate outdoor playgrounds. Classrooms will be separated into STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) learning areas, indoor play areas and other common-use spaces. Spaces will be open to the public in the evenings and on weekends.

Construction is expected to last 18 months, opening to the public in the summer of 2024. ■

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.

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.

February – **HEART HEALTHY RECIPES**, March – **BREAD**, April – **CASSEROLES**

VEGETABLE CHEESE SOUP

Makes 2 qt.

- 1 c. finely chopped celery
- ½ c. finely chopped carrots
- ¼ c. finely chopped onion
- 1 qt. chicken broth
- 1 qt. milk
- 1 lb. cubed Velveeta cheese
- ½ c. butter
- ½ c. flour
- ½ tsp. dry mustard

Instructions

1. Cook celery, carrots, onion and chicken broth until tender.
2. In a separate pan, scald 1 qt. milk. Add cubed Velveeta cheese and stir until melted.
3. In a saucepan, melt butter. Add flour and dry mustard. Mix well, then stir into milk and cheese mixture. Mix well, then stir in the hot vegetables and broth they were cooked in. Serve hot.

My favorite thing about this soup is as long as I have plenty of celery and carrots and onion, I can cook another batch of vegetables and broth, cool and freeze. Next time I want to make this soup, just thaw and heat the vegetables/broth and continue the rest of the recipe and you have soup made quickly with no mess.

Martha Bartenhagen

SLOW COOKER LOADED BAKED POTATO SOUP

- 4 c. potatoes, about 3-4 large russet potatoes peeled and diced
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 c. chicken broth
- 4 tbsp. butter
- ¼ c. flour
- ¼ c. sour cream
- 1 ½ c. heavy cream (half and half will also work)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Optional ingredients

- Bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 ½ c. cheddar cheese
- Green onions

Instructions

1. Add potatoes, diced onions, and chicken broth to your slow cooker. Cook on low for 4-6 hours or high for 3-4 until potatoes are tender.
2. About 30 minutes before it is done, in a medium saucepan, melt the butter. Whisk in flour and cook until bubbly. Slowly add heavy cream and sour cream. The mixture should be thick. Add this to the soup and stir. Continue to cook in the slow cooker for 20-30 minutes.
3. Serve with toppings or you can also stir them all into the soup. Enjoy!

Recipe from www.therecipecritic.com



PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

DECEMBER

Number of miles driven: **229 miles**

kWh's Charged: **114**

Cost to Charge: **.123 x 114 kWh = \$14.02**



FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – **two are worth a \$10 bill credit, and one is worth a \$5 bill credit if found.**



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

JEFF BRADLEY, President, Wadena

MICHAEL D. GIBBS, Vice President, Waterville

CINDY HEFFERN, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry

ROGER ARTHUR, Sumner

NELSON CONVERSE, Postville

GREG FORMANEK, Farmersburg

JERRY KELEHER, Elkader

AL STEFFENS, Clermont

BRICE WOOD, Lansing

MANAGEMENT STAFF

HOLLEE McCORMICK, EVP/General Manager

DAVID DECKER, Director,
Finance & Administrative Services

BRENDA HACKMAN, Manager, Economic
Development & Community Relations

JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information Technology

JENNIFER ACHENBACH, Manager,
Marketing & Communications

JASON TROENDLE, Director,
Operations & Engineering

RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 715 - Postville, IA 52162-0715

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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thank you

Thank you for the T-shirt and extension cord I won at the Appreciation Picnic. The food and frozen yogurt were delicious.

Thelma Keshner, Luana

To all employees,

What a wonderful surprise to receive notification of a \$20 credit being applied to my bill after attending the drive through Annual Meeting. Everyone should take part and enjoy the delicious take-out meal and choice of a gift. Thanks!

Mary Ann Heiden, Elkader

To all of you at Allamakee Clayton Electric, thank you for the jar of Tootsie Rolls I won in the drawing. The grandchildren had a fun time with the activities and enjoyed the food. It was a fun afternoon. Thanks again.

Diane Kraus

To our friends at Allamakee Clayton Electric Company, Jim and I want to say thank you for drawing our name to receive a \$20 bill credit. We enjoyed picking up our meals, then eating them with some of our Lansing friends. Thanks again,

Jan and Jim Pfiffner, Harpers Ferry

What a nice surprise to receive a notice in the mail that we won \$20 at the Annual Meeting and lunch. Thank you and keep up the good work. We have been members here for 61 years.

Robert and Janet Brown, Mallory Township, Colesburg

To whom it concerns, I wish to thank the Co-op for the bill credit given to me at the Co-op's annual meeting.

Anna Schroeder, Monona