



From left, re-elected directors were Allyn Harms and Gary Poppe. Also re-elected was Steve Boevers.



From left, prize winners were Ardith Buss, Dean Lane, Beverly Converse and Dennis Klocke. Not pictured is Kelli Wangsness.

Members re-elect directors to serve on your co-op board

Members of Butler County REC re-elected three incumbent directors at your co-op's 82nd annual meeting on April 6. Re-elected were Gary Poppe of Ionia, Steve Boevers of Readlyn and Allyn Harms of Clarksville.

A crowd of approximately 275 people with 175 voting members attended the meeting held in the North Butler Elementary School in Allison.

Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt, Iowa, was the guest speaker. Kuyper gave a 2018 year-in-review for Corn Belt, discussing their affiliation with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, North Dakota; the closure of the Duane Arnold Energy Center; renewable generation; and economic development. He commented, "What helps one co-op grow, helps all co-ops in the system.... We're here to serve you, our members of this great cooperative."

In addition, two proposed amendments passed by the super majority needed: 1) modifying the voting procedures to allow for voting by mail and potentially by electronic means in the future and 2) specific director qualifications.

Prizes awarded

At the close of the business meeting, \$700 in cash was given away. Grand prize winner of \$100 was Clifford Schilling, Ionia.

Additional prize winners were:

- Beverly Converse, Sumner, LED Smart HDTV
- Dean Lane, Greene, wi-fi weather station
- Dennis Klocke, Plainfield, LED security light
- Ardith Buss, Allison, Kill-O-Watt meter
- Kelli Wangsness, Allison, Kill-O-Watt meter

Winners of the \$25 Casey's gift cards for bringing in the registration certificates were Lavon Green of Shell Rock and Marion Wilharm of Waverly.

Your 2019 elected officers

Following the annual meeting, the board of directors held a reorganizational meeting and elected the following officers: Duane Rieckenberg, Ionia, president; Gary Poppe, Ionia, vice president; Leland Boyd, Charles City, treasurer; Tim Schrage, Allison, secretary; and Gerald Schmitt, Rockford, assistant secretary-treasurer.



Even the youngest annual meeting attendees had a great time!



May is Electrical Safety Month.

Safety Starts with You.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth

Safety starts with you

Electricity plays many roles in our lives. May is National Electrical Safety Month, a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Ground fault circuit interrupters

Check your GFCIs frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done.

Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards.

Extension cords

If an extension cord is noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized. And if it shows any signs of damage, it should be replaced.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in property damage.

Don't become a statistic!

SUMMER IS COMING

PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill



Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.



Change the air filter on your cooling unit.



Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.



Clear the air vents throughout your house.



Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.



Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org

Is your a/c ready?

After a long, chilly winter, we're all ready for warm summer weather. Is your air conditioning system as ready as you are?



There's nothing worse than an a/c malfunction on the hottest day of the year.

Plus, air conditioning is your biggest energy expense during the summer. Keep summer energy bills in check by making time for a few pre-summer rituals:

- Schedule a tune-up.
- If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, buy one with the highest SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating you can afford.
- Don't buy too big. Your air conditioner should "fit" the size of your home.
- Turn on your ceiling fans.
- Close window blinds during the hottest part of the day.
- Add insulation to your attic and caulk windows.



Electric co-ops advocate for rural Iowa during REC Day on the Hill

More than 200 employees and directors, representing 36 of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives (RECs), traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on March 20 to advocate for important issues during our annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. The cooperative advocates were briefed on state and federal legislative issues by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) before meeting with local legislators during a dessert social in the Capitol.

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Steve Seidl, board president of IAEC.

Advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Legislators also learned about three priorities important to Iowa's electric cooperatives:

- Ensuring safety and reliability of service through vegetation management.
- Supporting cost-effective energy-efficiency programs for homes and farms.
- Responsible power generation and delivery through fair treatment of all members and use of advanced technology.

Many electric cooperatives also displayed booths in the rotunda, providing information on topics including energy-efficiency programs, rural broadband efforts, investments in technology and rural economic development.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Board passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its memberships: If a member-consumer has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call your local electric cooperative at the following address or phone number:

Butler County REC

521 N. Main Street, PO Box 98
Allison, IA 50602-0098
(319) 267-2726
www.butlerrec.coop

Franklin REC

1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437
Hampton, IA 50441-0437
(641) 456-2557
www.franklinrec.coop

Grundy County REC

303 N. Park Ave., PO Box 39
Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039
(319) 824-5251
www.grundycountyrecia.com

Prairie Energy Cooperative

2099 Highway 3 West, PO Box 353
Clarion, IA 50525-0353
(515) 532-2805
www.prairieenergy.coop

If your complaint is related to your cooperative's service rather than its rates, and your cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

Our offices are closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

Phones are answered 24/7.

Siefken to retire

In June, we will be saying goodbye to Mark Siefken, a Butler County REC employee for 44 years. Mark began his career with the cooperative on June 9, 1975, when he was hired as a lineman. The next year Mark accepted a position with the engineering department, eventually becoming engineering and member services manager.

Mark, married to wife Jean, has one daughter, Reghann Snere of Seattle, Washington, and two grandchildren, A'dell Redlin, also of Seattle, and Max Wood of Carson City, Nevada.

Mark said, "I am extremely grateful for the opportunities I've been given at our Butler County REC. I was fortunate to be involved in many different parts of rural electric distribution.

"What I really want everyone to know is that I'm walking away from really great members, fellow employees, board of directors and other professional connections. The members of Butler County REC are in very good hands with the employees and board members, who genuinely care about our rural electric cooperative. It will be exciting to see what changes and challenges come in the future. Finally, I want to say thank you to all and hope we all go home safe to our families each and every day."



Mark Siefken



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Don't start that project until you've located all underground utilities. Call Iowa One Call at 811 at least 48 hours before work is scheduled to begin.

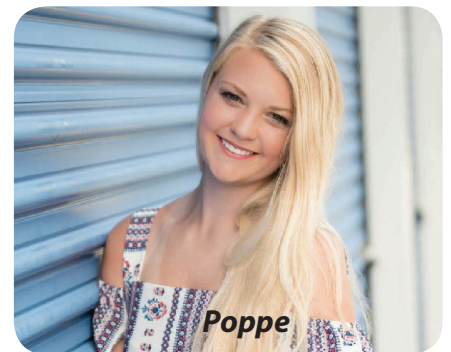
Basin scholarship winners announced

Butler County REC is awarding two area high school students with \$1,000 scholarships from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, North Dakota. The students receiving the scholarships are Abby Poppe, a senior at Nashua-Plainfield High School, and Avery Groen, a senior at Aplington-Parkersburg High School.

Poppe will attend Iowa State University, Ames, in the fall and major in mechanical engineering. Groen will attend Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, and major in exercise science and wellness.

Each year, dependents of members and employees of Butler County REC are eligible to apply for scholarships from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The scholarships are designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of students living on electric cooperative lines.

Applicants must be students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. This scholarship is awarded without regard to other awards, loans or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. The scholarship is based on SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience and participation in school and community activities.



Poppe



Groen

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521 North Main • PO Box 98 • Allison, IA 50602
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
WEBSITE: www.butlerrec.coop • E-MAIL: butler@butlerrec.coop
Craig Codner, CEO • EDITOR: Anne Sesker, CCC



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