

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

October 2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Member appreciation events successful

Thank you for attending our 2023 member appreciation events! The employees and board of Butler County REC were happy to see so many of you attend.

This year we served over 1,400 meals—sit down and drive thru—at our three events in Tripoli, Nashua, and Allison. Check out the photos on the back page of this newsletter.

It was awesome to hear the many positive comments, see the smiling faces, and see neighbors catching up. We had a great time and hope you did, as well!

Congratulations to our winners

- *Bill Credits:* Kevin Benning, Clarksville; Kenneth Debner, Greene; Diane Gebhardt, Tripoli; Jamie Landers, Bristow; Dean Morris, New Hampton; Karen Schwickerath, Waverly
- *Scooter/Helmet:* Junior (David) Foelske, Tripoli; Carter (Ronald) Hurd, Nashua; Sydney (Clint) Sharp, Parkersburg
- *Cornhole:* Marshall (Timothy) Dillon, Sumner
- *Power Washer:* Paul Van Ausdall, Charles City



Members and line crew gather outside of the Butler County REC event in Tripoli.

2023 Shine the Light nominees announced

At Butler County REC, we are proud of the volunteer work being done by our members. This year, one organization and eight individual nominations were received for the statewide cooperative Shine the Light contest, including one of the three winners. Those nominated were:

The Butler County Fair Board, Allison, nominated by Rhonda Marshall, for their work with the Butler County Fair Association, Butler County

Samantha Holm, Sumner, nominated by Amanda Petersen, for her work with Royal Family Kids' Camp Northeast Iowa, Sumner

Angie Johnson, Rockford, nominated by Larry Hicok, for her work with the GROW Rockford Together Association, Rockford

Bill Meyer, Fredericksburg, nominated by Nancy Meyer, for his work with the Fredericksburg Lions Club, Fredericksburg

Caleb Meyer, Aplington, nominated by Katie LaBree, for his work with Feed My Starving Children, national organization

Caroline Mohlis, Tripoli, nominated by Anita Destival, Jodi Risse, Barb Schwake, Ken Shonka, Sandy Tagtow, and Joanna VanDeBerg, for her work with Helping Hands Clothing Closet, Bremer County

Teresa Poland, Clarksville, nominated by Paula Hoodjer, for her work with the Clarksville Food Pantry, Clarksville

Caleb Sinnwell, Nashua, nominated by Heather Sinnwell, for his work with the Nashua VFW Post 6792, Nashua

Betty Thronson, Phoenix, AZ, nominated by Shirley Hoffman, for her work with Project Flo, Chickasaw County (statewide winner)

Congratulations to the nominees! Butler County REC appreciates your dedication and volunteer service.





\$25 bill credit winner announced

Your August issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine features a recipe from Dode Westendorf, Waverly, earning her a \$25 Butler County REC bill credit.

Dode's recipe for Fresh Strawberries and Cream Cake was chosen for publication, along with other Iowa cooperative members' favorite dessert recipes.

Congratulations, Dode!




Do you pay your REC bill through a financial institution?

In the past, if you paid your Butler County REC bill through your financial institution, we received a check.

Now, we receive your payment through an online banking process. This means that we receive your payment sooner and you no longer have to be concerned with it being lost in the mail. This change does not require you to do anything new.

Let us know if you have questions.

Are you wasting your money on **DIRT?**



Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy

RECare MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Butler County REC continues to extend a helping hand to members in need. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, we have established RECare, a program of members helping members.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

You may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.

You have the power to make a difference.

RECare CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

- I will contribute \$_____ per month. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- I will make a one-time contribution of \$_____ to RECare. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____



Return to Butler County REC, PO Box 98, Allison, IA, 50602

BCREC completes cyber goals

Butler County REC is proud to announce that we have completed the 10 goals of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Co-op Cyber Goals Program. NRECA states, "This is a major achievement toward establishing a basic level of cybersecurity at your co-op and helping your company and our industry electricity grid be better protected from cyber threats."

We chose to participate in the voluntary program because we take cybersecurity and our members' information seriously. It is important that we protect our infrastructure and support reliability of service for our members.

The 10 goals we were required to meet were: establish a cybersecurity point of contact, self-assessment, contract review, multi-factor authentication, default password policy, leadership training, employee training, IT/OT segmentation, cyber incident response plan, and data backups.

Alan Mayer, BCREC IT analyst since 2012, said, "We are always looking to improve the cybersecurity of our cooperative for our members. We want them to know that when they provide their personal information, it is safe with us."



CO-OP™
CYBER
SECURE

Level One **RC3** Goals Achieved

Electric Co-ops Grow for the Communities They Serve October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and Butler County REC is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate.

Our priority is to provide reliable energy to our local communities. We exist to serve our members. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

Co-ops Grow Together Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events, scholarships, the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You At Butler County REC, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



CO-OPS
GROW

COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month.

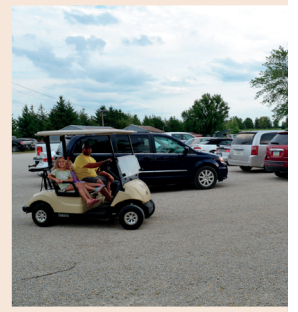
As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

CO-OPS ARE GUIDED BY 7 PRINCIPLES

- | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Voluntary & Open Membership | Democratic Member Control | Members' Economic Participation | Autonomy & Independence | Education, Training, & Information | Cooperation Among Cooperatives | Concern for Community |

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS

2023



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