

## Developing an effective board

members to govern the cooperative.

Serving our members is a worthwhile commitment. Our board plays a crucial role in determining the strategic direction and priorities of Butler County REC. This input and guidance are key as the cooperative not only keeps the lights on today but also works to meet our members' future energy needs.

At Butler County REC, we urge our board and management to implement policies and practices that reflect transparency, ethics and accountability and to communicate those good governance practices with the membership.

Our directors have valuable opportunities to attend governance education courses and industry conferences so they are informed on the latest challenges, trends, regulations and technologies affecting electric cooperatives. This education leads to more informed decisions.

In fact, our national association manages an extensive credential program for our directors that includes opportunities to earn a Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and a Board Leadership Certificate. These programs are especially important for newer directors as they must learn quickly about their roles and responsibilities and understand the challenges and issues unique to the electric industry. Many of these education courses are provided here in Iowa, which helps us manage costs.

Education of our directors is an investment in the cooperative's future. Making informed decisions helps guide the cooperative to a successful future as we power lives and empower the communities we serve.

If you have questions about running for the board, please contact us at 888.267.2726.

A WORD FROM



**Craig Codner, CEO**  
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

In November, we will send a letter to our members in each of the three districts in which directors will be running.

Those attending the annual meeting on Saturday, April 6, will vote for directors in these areas. This is part of the cooperative difference and a core cooperative principle—members electing

## Boevers earns director certificate

Congratulations to Director Steve Boevers for earning his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

This certification is the first part of NRECA's three-part director education program. Boevers completed five courses focusing on basic governance knowledge and essential skills required of directors. He is now able to pursue his Board Leadership Certificate from NRECA.

Boevers, a Butler County REC member since 1982, has represented the east half of Bremer County on the board since 2013. He and his wife Sara live in Readlyn and own farms served by the cooperative. They have three children, Michael, Megan Schutte and Mitchell.



*Director Steve Boevers (l) receives his certificate from Board President Duane Rieckenberg.*



*Deb McWhirter, contest winner*

## Congratulations!

Deb McWhirter, Allison, won an electric skillet in a contest in *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. She entered the contest, advertised in the September issue, by visiting the magazine's website at living-withenergyiniowa.com.

*Living with Energy in Iowa* is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

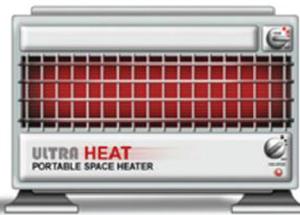
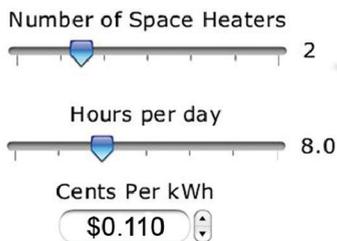
## Warm up safely with space heaters

Space heaters can work wonders on the coldest winter days to warm rooms that your central heating system doesn't keep comfortable. But while manufacturers have worked to build more safety features into this alternative heating source, users still should be careful to ensure these cozy heaters don't become fire hazards.

Space heaters are designed as a supplemental source of heat, not as the main source. So you shouldn't use them constantly, especially in rooms that you don't use much. Check your space heaters for a UL seal, and follow these guidelines for safely using them:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from drapes and furniture that could catch fire.
- Don't use extension cords with space heaters.
- Inspect the heater's cord periodically for frayed wires or damaged insulation. Don't use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug gets hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified electrician. This could be the sign of a home wiring issue.
- Place your heater on a flat, level surface. Don't place heaters on furniture, as they may fall and break or even start a fire.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, don't use it in wet areas.

**On average, how much will it cost to run two 1,500-watt space heaters this winter?**



**Cost per month**  
**\$79.20**

## Scholarships available

- Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients may be either first- or second-year students at Northwest Iowa Community College studying in the programs of Electrical Technology, Powerline or Powerline Technology. Students must maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA. Applications must be filed with Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 1, 2019. For an application or more information, contact Sheila Van Engen, foundation secretary, Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation, 603 West Park Street, Sheldon, IA, 51201-1046, (800) 352-4907 ext. 246, [svanengen@nwicc.edu](mailto:svanengen@nwicc.edu).
- Corn Belt Power partners with Iowa Lakes Community College to offer one \$500 scholarship. To qualify, the recipient must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program, a first- or second-year student at Iowa Lakes Community College, maintain 2.5 minimum GPA and be an Iowa resident. For an application or more information, contact Alison Mason, Iowa Lakes Community College, 712.362.0491 ext. 4491 or [amazon@iowalakes.edu](mailto:amazon@iowalakes.edu). Applications due by April 1, 2019.

## Brighten your home with LED holiday lights

Thinking about purchasing LED holiday lights this year? We're making it even easier and more cost-effective.

With our LED holiday light rebate, you can save up to \$2 per item, with no limit on the number purchased.

LED lights are:

**Energy efficient** - use less electricity compared to conventional bulbs.

**Long lifespan** - up to 50,000 hours or more used outdoors and twice as long indoors.

**Safe** - No chance of combustion since the bulbs are cool to the touch, regardless of how long they are left on.

**Contact us today for an LED holiday light rebate form!**

# Savor an energy-efficient Thanksgiving feast

Make this year's Thanksgiving your most energy-wise ever. Enlist everyone to come up with energy-saving ideas.

Along with your invitation to family and friends, ask everyone to bring more than a side dish. Instruct them to come prepared to share their favorite ways to save energy and reduce their monthly electric bills.

After dinner, go around the table and have each person share a tip.

Save your ideas for last. Here's a cheat sheet to help you show off:

1. **Turn down the thermostat.** With a full house and a hot kitchen, your house will become steamy.
2. **Replace your light bulbs with LEDs** and new LED fixtures. Your guests won't notice a dif-

ference in lighting, but you'll see a difference in your energy bill.

3. **Stuff the turkey AND the oven.** Cook several dishes at once. A variation of 25 degrees in either direction from the recommended cooking temperature will still produce the desired result.
4. **Cook at least one dish in the microwave.** Microwaves are faster than the oven and use less electricity.
5. **Completely fill the dishwasher.**



- With a mountain of plates, using the dishwasher is more efficient than hand washing.
6. **Let leftovers cool slightly** so your refrigerator doesn't have to work so hard to cool hot foods.

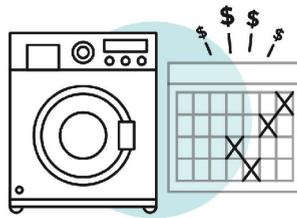
## TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:

1. Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)

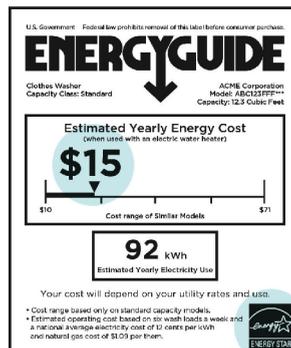


2. Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- Look for the **ENERGY STAR®** label. ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance. The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- Once you choose your make and model, compare prices. Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- Recycle or sell your old appliance. Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself. Either option is better than the landfill!

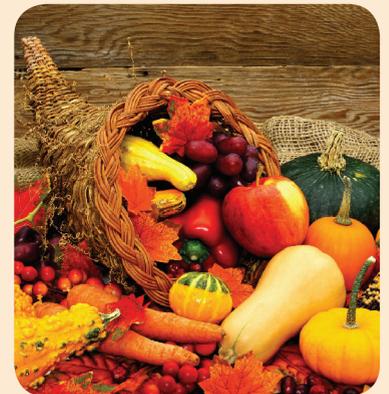


## We're thankful for you

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative.

Originally established to bring electricity to our area when no one else would, the cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs.

Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.





In this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful for you and are thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

**Our office is closed Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23,** so our employees can enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

As always, our phones are answered 24/7. If you have an emergency or an outage, call us at 888.267.2726.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## Bram earns associate degree

Seth Bram, crew chief, was recently awarded his associate of applied science degree in Powerline Technology from Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC), Sheldon.

Bram, an 11-year employee who lives in Clarksville and works out of our Allison warehouse, took online courses for two years to earn his degree. He decided to pursue this degree for his future and for his career. "I wanted to improve my knowledge base and skill set."

After graduating from Nora Springs-Rock Falls High School, Seth went to NCC and earned his powerline diploma. He began working at Butler County REC in August of 2007.

In his spare time, Seth is a beekeeper. The owner of Bram's Bees, he has 12 hives, which produced 18 gallons of honey last year. Congratulations, Seth, on your degree!



*Seth Bram, crew chief, holds his newly acquired Powerline Technology degree.*

## High school juniors: Win a week-long trip to Washington DC!

Apply to experience the next Youth Tour set for June 14-20, 2019. High school juniors whose parents are Butler County REC members or residents of Aplington, Fairbank, Fredericksburg or Readlyn are invited to apply. We'll select one lucky student to participate in this all-expense paid trip.

**Are you planning to attend college?** We offer \$500 college scholarships for the top three students applying for the Youth Tour.

Approximately 35 students in Iowa will be chosen by their local electric cooperatives. While on the trip to Washington, D.C., these participants will join approximately 1,800 more students representing states across our country.

**For more information, contact us at  
319.267.2726 or 888.267.2726**



# CRIME STOPPERS

**800-452-1111**

**COPPER THEFT IS A SERIOUS CRIME.  
YOU CAN HELP PREVENT IT!**

If you see suspicious activities at an electric substation or around other equipment, please call Crime Stoppers. Your information and identity will remain anonymous, and you could earn a reward if the perpetrators are caught and a crime is solved.

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