

Nominating Committee Appointed

It's time to start thinking about the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. Farmers Electric Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting is slated for September 20, 2011, at the Farmers Electric office building.

The three-year terms for Directors Randy Christoffersen in the Western District, Betty Lents in the Central District, and Robert Newton in the Eastern District will expire this year. Randy Christoffersen has decided not to run again.

In compliance with the cooperative's bylaws, the Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee that will meet June 8, 2011 to prepare a slate of candidates for those positions.

If you are interested in being nominated or would like to nominate someone, please contact the committee member in your area.

To qualify, a candidate must be a member of the Cooperative, reside in the area served by the Cooperative, not employed by or have a financial interest in a competing enterprise or business in selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, be at least 18 years of age and not be a close relative of a director or employee.

Nominations may also be made by petition and

signed by 15 members. The signed petition must be submitted to the cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee for the 2011 Director Areas are as follows.

West District

Mike Ladd, 641-743-6669
2390 Pine Ave, Greenfield, IA 50849

Leo Weinheimer, 641-743-2660
2050 200th St, Fontanelle, IA 50846-8032

East District

Bill Rhoads, 515-468-3743
2450 Knoll Ride Trail, Winterset, IA 50273-8335

Steve Wetlaufer, 515-462-3267
2003 Hogback Bridge Rd, Winterset, IA 50273

Central District

Doug Skellenger, 641-337-5434
3231 Henry A Wallace Rd, Creston, IA 50801

Tom Doud, 515-523-2337
3256 110th St, Stuart, IA 50250-8007

Don't Hide Our Equipment

Farmers Electric Cooperative has poles, meter pedestals and pad mounted transformers located on our member's property. This equipment provides you with electrical service and sometimes we need to work on or replace this equipment in case of failure or repair. That means we need access to the equipment and sometimes the surrounding area. Fences, trees and shrubs placed too close to this equipment can prevent our linemen from working safely around our high voltage lines and from using the proper equipment. Also if the pole or box needs to be replaced, a digger truck needs to get close to lift the equipment, and replace it.

If you have a pad-mounted transformer setting on the ground, the door opening side should have at least eight feet of working room in front of it and at least three feet of operating room on the other sides. And remember that if you dig in the areas close to our electrical equipment, there are underground wires. Always call 811 before digging anywhere. *It's a free call!*

**Farmers
Electric
Cooperative
will be closed
on Monday,
July 4, 2011.**

*Have a safe
and fun
holiday.*

OPEN LINES *by Stan Crees, Member Service Director*



In April our communicator, Gina Meisenheimer and I visited the schools in our service territory and educated the third graders on electrical safety. This has been an ongoing practice at Farmers Electric Cooperative for a long time. Gina contacted all of the schools in our service territory and we were asked to attend the Anita, Massena, Nodaway Valley, Orient and Winterset schools. Some of the schools in our service territory had as few as 9 third graders and one school had as many as 156 third graders. When we

arrive at the different schools, usually, we have to check in at the office, and get a visitor's pass. This is a good practice and should be a recommended practice at all schools. When we start our presentation first we introduce ourselves and tell the students a little bit about what an electric cooperative is and what it does. Then we instruct the students that first of all we will show them an electrical safety DVD. The DVD lasts about 15 minutes. We received a new video this year to show the students and it is full of good electrical safety tips. The content of the video is broken down into five subheadings, Electricity Basics, Conductors & Insulators, Outdoor Electrical Safety, Indoor Electrical Safety and Fallen Power Lines. After the video I ask some questions of the students to see how well they were paying attention. They really liked participating and usually answered the questions correctly. Some of the questions were as follows:

Which of these carries electricity from power plants to substations?

- a) steel pipes
- b) transmission lines
- c) outlets
- d) windmills

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Youth Tour Winner



Joey Wilbourne was chosen to go on this year's Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Joey is the daughter of Brooke Wilbourne and Misty Cullen. We know that Joey will have an amazing and educational time learning about our nation's capitol.

CO-OP CORNER



Hydroelectric power is produced about the same way as a coal-fired generating plant produces power. They both turn a propeller-like piece called a turbine, which then turns a metal shaft, which in turn spins an electric generator. The major advantage of hydroelectric power or hydropower is the elimination of the fuel cost. Since hydro-powered units do not burn fossil fuels, such as coal, they are a renewable source of energy production.

Most of the hydropower comes from dammed water flowing to a water turbine and coupled to a generator. The power produced depends on the volume of water and on the difference in height between the source and the water's outflow. The theory is to build a dam on a large river that has a large drop in elevation. Hydro power does not pollute the water or the air, but does have environmental impacts. A hydro plant may affect the temperature of the water and the river's flow. These changes may harm native plants and animals in the river and on land.

Yes, hydropower sounds great, and you might wonder why we don't use it to produce all of our power! Mainly, because you need lots of water and a lot of land where you can build a dam and a reservoir, which all takes a LOT of money. Also, most of the good spots to locate hydro plants have already been taken. In the early part of the century hydroelectric plants supplied a bit less than 50 percent of the nation's electrical power. Today, the number is down to around 10 percent. Worldwide hydropower is about 19 percent of the total electrical power production.

The trend for future construction of hydropower plants will probably be to build small-scale plants that can generate electricity for a single community.

Farmers Open Lines

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Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Office Hours:

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

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To report a power outage call
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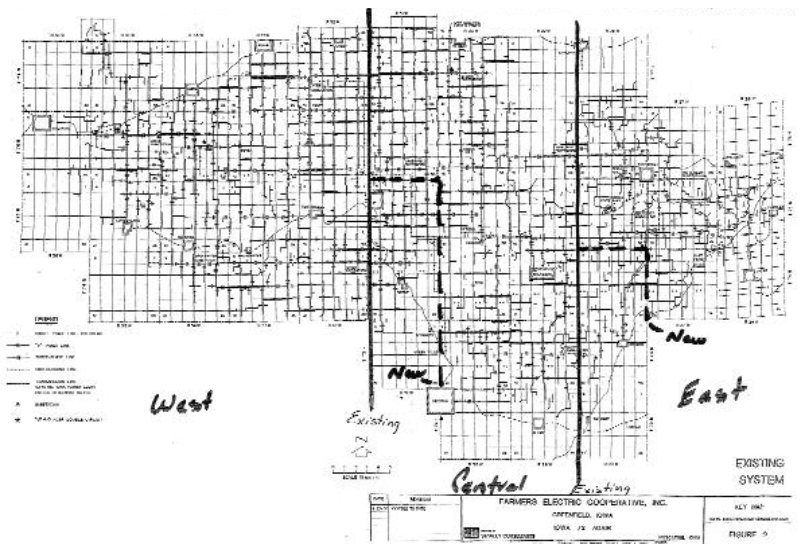


The weather has finally cooperated and the planting is getting completed. It seemed like the wet weather was going to hang on forever this spring!

In June we start the process of selecting candidates to run for the Board of Directors. This year, Randy Christoffersen will be leaving the Board, having served since March of 1999. Randy served as Board President for a number of years and has been an excellent Board member who will be greatly missed. If you see Randy, thank him for his years of dedicated service and for looking out for the members' interests.

At the May Board meeting, your Directors amended the District boundaries to equalize the number of members in each District. There is a map with the new boundaries adjacent to my column. Even though Randy is leaving the Board from the West District; there will still be 3 Directors in that District with the new boundaries (Betty Lents will be moving from the Central District to the West District and the open Director position will be in the Central District). We continue to lose members in the West District, thus the need to expand that area to encompass additional members.

During the 2011 Legislative session, we had an opportunity, on several occasions, to visit with our



area state Senate and House members. I am happy to report that our local Senate and House members supported issues important to the cooperatives and its members' best interests. These individuals have a tough job to do and we applaud them for their hard work.

Work is progressing on the new truck garage; by the time you get this newsletter, the garage should be built. Also, the office remodeling should be well on its way to completion. The pole yard is fenced. The concrete parking areas remain to be poured (mid June this work should be started) plus the flooring and painting in the office area are to be completed in late June as well.

Electric Cooperatives Outperform IOUs and Munis on the American Consumer Satisfaction Index

(Source: *Transmission & Distribution World*)

According to data released yesterday by the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), electric cooperative consumer members are significantly more satisfied with their co-op energy provider than consumers who receive power from either investor-owned or municipal-owned utilities.

In a year when consumer satisfaction overall dropped to a two-year low, electric cooperatives received an average satisfaction score of 82, eight points higher than the median score for investor-owned utilities (74) and nine points higher than the median score for munis (73).

2011 is the first year the well-regarded ACSI included cooperative electric utilities as a separate category. The survey included a random sampling of co-op consumer members from across the country.

The average score for electric cooperatives topped that of FirstEnergy, the top-scoring investor-owned electric utility (78), and matched the score of Salt River Project, the top-scoring municipal (82).

"These scores validate the unique co-op business model," said NRECA CEO Glenn English. "Owned by the people they serve, cooperatives put affordable electric bills above profits and dividends. At heart, electric co-ops are local consumer advocacy organizations."

The 723 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives scored higher than any other utility sector with an ACSI score of 83.

OPEN LINES *(continued)*

Unless it's interrupted, electricity flows in a closed path called:

- a) a route
- b) a circuit
- c) an electrical panel
- d) an outlet

What should you do before climbing any tree?

Why should you land with your feet together and shuffle away when you are leaving your car with a power line on it?

- a) It takes less of your energy
- b) You can travel farther that way
- c) You might create a spark
- d) If your feet remain together your legs cannot form a circuit with the electricity in the ground

After the question and answer period we had a live line demonstration set up called "Hazard Hamlet" that the cooperatives can borrow from CIPCO, our G & T. It is connected to an outlet and has 16 scenes in which people are doing dangerous things around electricity and when I explain what is happening in the scene, Gina pushes the button for that scene and the electricity jumps from the set of electrical contacts in the scene. This shows the students the dangers of not respecting electricity. Some examples of the scenes are, a little girl climbing into an electrical substation, a man digging into the ground without contacting 811 first, a person sticking a fork into a toaster without unplugging it and a car that has broken off a power pole and the power line is laying on the car. The students really get a bang out of the live line demonstration. We also take along some of the equipment the lineman use to climb poles with when they cannot get the basket truck close enough to the poles. Students really enjoy seeing this equipment also. After the presentation, if we have any time left we usually ask the students if they have any questions. This can last quite a while and the teacher usually has to tell the students our time is up and there will be only enough time for one last question. When our safety program is over we usually get a round of applause from the teachers and students. It is really an educating experience not only for the third graders, but also for Gina and me. It is one of the more enjoyable aspects of the member service program at the cooperative.



2010 REBATE DEADLINE

Rebates for equipment installed in 2010 must be submitted to Farmers Electric Cooperative by June 30th, 2011 at the latest, so we can enter it into the system by the July 14th deadline! Any 2010 rebates received after this deadline will not be accepted.