

THE CONNECTION

Energy Bill Provides Affordability

Consumers Energy applauds our state legislators who voted for passage of Senate File 2311 (SF 2311), an energy bill that has several sections beneficial to members of Iowa's electric cooperatives, especially regarding affordability. Further, we want to applaud Governor Reynolds for not believing the distortions of truth surrounding the bill, and instead, signing the bill into law.

Many myths hovered around this energy bill. First and foremost, this bill does not eliminate our cooperative commitment to renewable energy or our successful energy efficiency programs that were in practice decades before state government made such programs mandatory.

This bill provides much-needed regulatory parity and clarity for electric cooperatives. With a business model grounded in local control and governance, we're in business solely to serve you – our members – with safe, reliable, and affordable power.

The energy efficiency sections of SF 2311 have gained a great deal of attention. Nothing in this bill changes the requirement that Consumers Energy will offer energy efficiency programs. As part of these offerings, the bill will ensure these programs are cost-effective – meaning that you won't foot the bill for a program that isn't financially responsible. The legislation also eliminates time-consuming and duplicative reporting to the Iowa Utilities Board, which will save our employees valuable time and resources that could be directed into further serving you.



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WIN

ONE OF TWO MONTHLY \$5 BILL CREDITS

THIS MONTH'S CONTEST:

*What were the best parts
of the last Annual Meeting
you attended?*



Winners for the month of May:
Melvin Osgood, Marshalltown
Don & Jane Hays, Albion

Here's how to enter:

1. Answer the question or challenge posed each month.
2. Send answers to Consumers Energy with:
 - Name
 - Service address
 - Account number
 - Phone number
 - Email address

Email to: kglenney@consumersenergy.coop

Subject line: Contest

Mail to: Consumers Energy
2074 242nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

3. Winners' names will be drawn at random and published in upcoming issues of *The Connection*.

June 2018

– *Your Source for
Power and Information*

Dates To Remember:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 1 | Read Meters |
| June 3 | Bills Due |
| June 4 | Automatic Payments
Deducted |
| June 8 | Mail Bills |
| June 17 | Father's Day |
| June 25 | Automatic Payments
Deducted |
| July 2 | Read Meters |
| July 3 | Bills Due |
| July 4 | Independence Day
Office Closed |



Where are they?



We need help locating these former co-op members.

Consumers Energy is holding unclaimed money due to these persons listed. This property is the result of checks from Patronage Capital Credit payouts that have been returned to the cooperative due to outdated mailing information. The owner may claim this money by contacting Billing Coordinator Brenda Hedum at 800-696-6552 or bhedum@consumersenergy.coop.

Nate Alvis, Logan, IA
 Lana Anderson, Albion, IA
 Aaron R Anderson, Ankeny, IA
 Taylor Aukes, Ankeny, IA
 Betina Balli, San Antonio, TX
 Phyllis Barnes, Alleman, IA
 Sarah Bond, Indianola, IA
 Kelli Boyle, Ankeny, IA
 Claire Burkman, Ankeny, IA
 Chris Calhoun, Wauke, IA
 Caliber Homes, Huxley, IA
 Cory Clark, Norwalk, IA
 Taylor Cluff, Ankeny, IA
 Chase Conover, Baxter, IA
 Stanley Dahl, Huxley, IA
 Mirka Deza, Ankeny, IA
 Misty Dutcher, Ankeny, IA
 Ashley Elliott, Des Moines, IA
 Abbey Elmer, Des Moines, IA
 Katie Elsberry, Granger, IA
 Jeremy Engler, Ankeny, IA
 Lisa L Erickson, Cambridge, IA
 Josh Fenceroy, Sioux City, IA

Bonlia Geerdes, Ames, IA
 Tracy Grant, Ames, IA
 Nathan Graves, Ames, IA
 Lyndell Gulley, Santa Rosa, CA
 Brandon Hansen, Scranton, IA
 Lisa Hartz, Ankeny, IA
 Marie E Hendrickson, Marshalltown, IA
 Dana Hines, Ankeny, IA
 Dale Holubar, Marshalltown, IA
 Tiffany Jimenez, Huxley, IA
 Brett Johannes, Zeating, IA
 Justin Kirchoff, Gilbert, IA
 Kwaliti Custom Homes, Urbandale, IA
 Lynn Larsen, Huxley, IA
 Mariah Leiting, Nevada, IA
 Debra J Marchant, Newton, IA
 Kim Markle, Marshalltown, IA
 Kristi Mathis, Ankeny, IA
 Marcelo Merida, Marshalltown, IA
 Paige Moore, Ankeny, IA
 Fadzana Mukarakate, Altoona, IA
 Dylan Muller, Ames, IA
 Bob Nitz, Ankeny, IA

Northwood Homes, Polk City, IA
 Abbigail O'Brien, Grimes, IA
 Kade Olson, Ames, IA
 Lorna Puntillo, Council Bluffs, IA
 Real Estate Owned, LLC,
 Marshalltown, IA
 Real Estate Service Group, Omaha, NE
 Regency Land Development,
 West Des Moines, IA
 Elaine E Robins, Clemons, IA
 Aaron Schwenker, Ankeny, IA
 Jacky Sease, Altoona, IA
 Jon Sedgwick, Ankeny, IA
 Susan Shackelford, Johnston, IA
 Belinda Smalley, Cambridge, IA
 Lucinda Smart, Ankeny, IA
 Andrea Stern, West Des Moines, IA
 Kimberly Taylor, Elkhart, IA
 Martha Vajgrt, Windsor Heights, IA
 Cody Vos, Ankeny, IA
 Megan Williams, Ankeny, IA
 Windsor Homes Inc, Ankeny, IA
 William Wiseman, Gilman, IA

Energy Bill Provides Affordability *(continued)*

Providing robust energy efficiency programs and services has long been the foundation of our commitment to environmental stewardship, even before there was a mandate to do so. During the past 10 years alone, Iowa's electric cooperatives have invested more than \$120 million in energy efficiency measures, saving at least 6 billion kilowatt-hours. The bill signed into law by Governor Reynolds does nothing to change our commitment to energy efficiency.

Our dedication to the environment doesn't stop with energy efficiency. Through sensible investments in renewable energy and innovations in technology, we take pride in our communities and strive to maintain the integrity of the land's most precious resources.

The energy landscape has dramatically changed in the past 30 years, leading to more federal rules, regulations, and mandates. When there are comprehensive federal policies in place, additional state mandates quickly become duplicative and unnecessary. This bill will require the Iowa Utilities Board to consider existing federal regulations before establishing similar state mandates. Again, this is beneficial for keeping your cooperative's business operations efficient and cost-effective.

Providing reliable and affordable energy is core to our cooperative mission and purpose. Governor Reynolds' signature on this bill gives us more power to stabilize rates and ensure affordability well into the future.

— Jim Kidd, General Manager

Nominating Committee's Duty: Develop Slate of Candidates for Election of Directors

This year's Nominating Committee members are Deanna Adams, Alex Andrade, Loyd Nelson, Carmen Rosburg, and Larry Swift. The Nominating Committee is comprised of 5 to 11 cooperative members that are appointed by the Board of Directors and charged with the responsibility of selecting members to run as candidates for director positions annually.

The committee met on May 1 to develop a slate of candidates to run for Consumers Energy's Board of Directors. The election of three directors will be held at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, August 25, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

In July, the Nominating Committee will finalize the ballot for the director election and post its list of nominations for director candidates at Consumers Energy by July 11. Cooperative members have the ability to petition candidates on the ballot as stated in the cooperative's By-Laws as follows:

The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least forty-five (45) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors.

Such nominations shall be made by districts as herein prescribed to succeed the directors whose terms will expire at the meeting of members for which such nominations are made, and the members so nominated shall be bona fide residents of the district from which they are nominated and meet all other qualification requirements as set forth herein. Any fifty (50) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty-five (35) days prior to the meeting at which directors are to be elected, and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted; such nominations so made by such members to be subject to the same qualifications, district, and residence requirements as nominations by the nominating committee heretofore prescribed.

Each co-op member will receive information on the director candidates in the Annual Business Meeting Notice and Ballot Mailing to be mailed in early August.

This Nominating Committee will serve as the Election & Credentials Committee for the 2018 Election of Directors at the Annual Business Meeting. The committee appointed Loyd Nelson as Chairperson and Deanna Adams as Vice Chairperson. Sincere gratitude is extended to these committee members for their dedicated service to Consumers Energy and its membership.

For more information, contact Kippen Glenney at kglenney@consumersenergy.coop or 800-696-6552.



General Manager Jim Kidd, Chairperson Loyd Nelson, Vice Chairperson Deanna Adams

LAUNDRY TIP:

Use rubber or wool dryer balls which help separate clothing during the cycle. This provides better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture which also reduces drying time.



2018 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to these students
and **Good luck** in
future endeavors!

For more information on Consumers Energy's Scholarship Program visit,
www.consumersenergy.coop/content/scholarship-program.



Alex Kunz - Lineworker Scholarship
Parents: Jay & Janice Kunz



Braydon Aker
Parents: Jason & Renee Aker



Wyatt Edler
Parents: Jeff & Stephanie Edler



Sarah Jacobs
Parents: Greg & Linda Jacobs



Seth Kilborn
Parents: Scott Kilborn & Carol Glockl



Braelyn Lander
Parents: Chris & Shannon Lander



Blake Linsenmeyer
Parents: Jeremy & Bonnie Linsenmeyer



Sydney Pierson
Parents: Pat & Karla Pierson



Kate Rietz
Parents: Dave & Christy Rietz



Haley Stahl
Parents: Jon & Julie Stahl

Alex Kunz is a senior at Emmetsburg High School where he was involved in golf. Alex enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding BMX. His love for the outdoors played an important part in choosing a career as an electric utility lineworker. Alex plans to attend Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson, MN, in July.

Consumers Energy is proud to be able to offer scholarships to central Iowa students. The cooperative gives \$1,000 scholarships based on scholastic achievement, school and community involvement, work history, and references. This year, Consumers Energy awarded 10 scholarships—one lineworker scholarship available to any student in the state of Iowa and nine general academic scholarships available to members' children.

Braydon Aker will graduate from Baxter High School where he was involved in football, baseball, track, speech, drama, student council, and yearbook. Braydon has volunteered with Big Brothers for the past three years. In his spare time, Braydon enjoys spending time with friends, playing video games, and watching movies. This fall, Braydon will attend Iowa Western Community College.

Wyatt Edler was involved in activities such as cross country, football, weight lifting, wrestling, and golf, while attending West Marshall High School. While volunteering at his church, Wyatt taught an educational class for the youth group. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and hunting. Wyatt plans to attend Iowa State University this fall.

Sarah Jacobs attends Marshalltown High School where she has been involved in volleyball, softball, cross country, tennis, National Honor Society, and Student Senate. She also has volunteered for three years as large-group leader at her church vacation Bible school. Following graduation, Sarah plans to attend either the University of Northern Iowa or Mount Mercy.

Seth Kilborn participated in cross country, track, speech, yearbook, drama, and strength training, while attending East Marshall High School. Seth has volunteered as a nature camp summer counselor at the Izaak Walton League. He will attend Indian Hills Community College and will major in education. Seth plans to run cross country while attending college.

Braelyn Lander has been active at West Marshall High School with cheerleading, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, yearbook, and West Marshall Mentors. Braelyn has been taking dance classes and participating in competitive dance for the past 13 years. She is the president of the Clemons Clippers 4-H Club and shows horses. Braelyn will attend Marshalltown Community College in the fall.

Blake Linsenmeyer is a senior at Marshalltown High School who has been active in football, basketball, Student Senate, and National Honor Society. He has spent time volunteering by packaging meals for Haiti, delivering food to the Emergency Food Box, and working games at St. Mary's Fall Festival. Blake will attend Iowa State University.

Sydney Pierson attends Ballard High School where she participates in trapshooting and is on the honor roll. For the past few years, she has been an aide at a local childcare center and preschool. Hobbies Sydney enjoys are hunting and trapshooting. Sydney plans to attend Hawkeye Community College this fall.

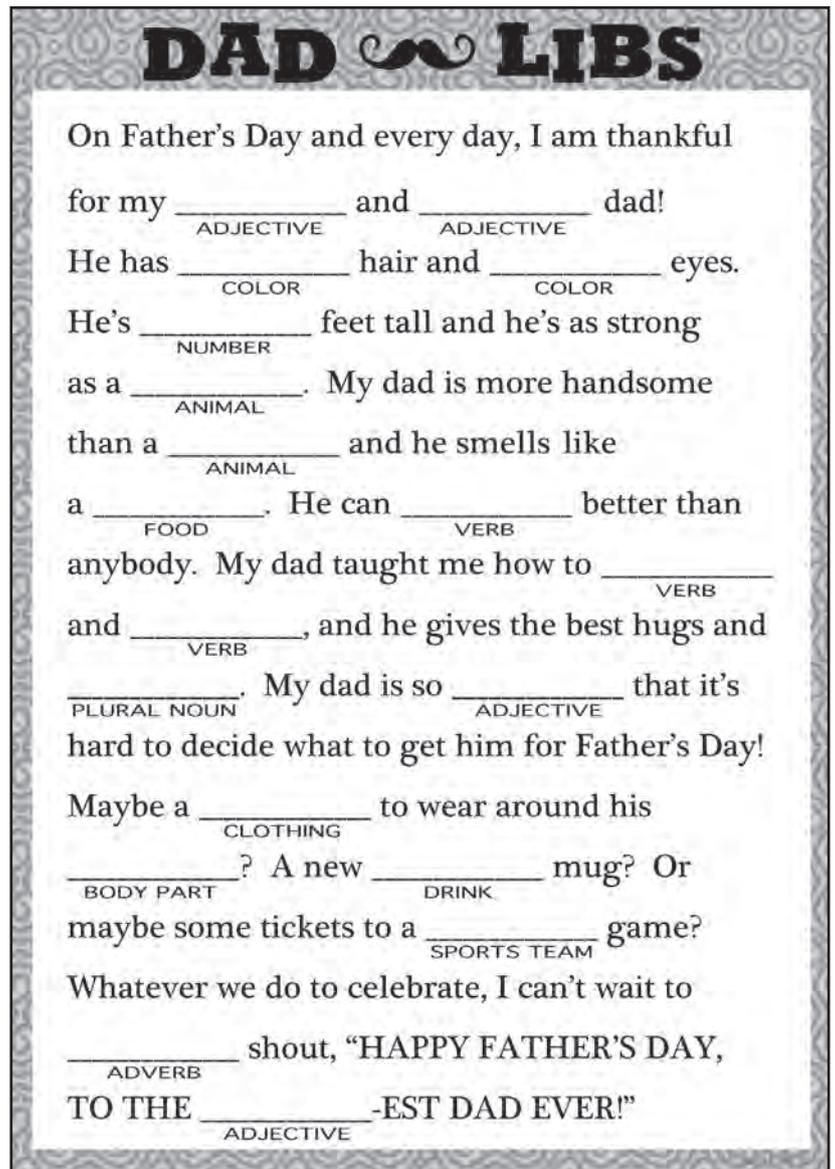
Kate Rietz is a senior at Ballard High School where she is involved in cross country, tennis, softball, basketball, speech, drama, and band. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Kate volunteers as a youth counselor and reads for elementary classes. This fall, Kate plans to attend the University of Iowa.

Haley Stahl participated in several activities while attending GMG High School including National Honor Society, Student Council, cross country, track, softball, and speech. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, hunting, fishing, kayaking, and traveling. Haley plans to attend Iowa State University.

Annual Audit of Co-op Financials Complete

In March, Eide Bailly, LLP completed the Annual Audit of the balance sheet of Consumers Energy Cooperative and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2017, and 2016, and the related statements of operations, member patronage capital credits, and other equities and cash flows for the years then ended. The audits were conducted according to the generally accepted auditing standards.

An audit facilitates improved processes and controls, addresses regulatory or other compliance issues, and ensures processes are efficient as well as providing reasonable assurance the financial statements are presented fairly and are free of material misstatement. Eide Bailly, LLP's Andrew Adams, Engagement Supervisor, presented a clean opinion to the Board of Directors at their April board meeting, stating that the financial statements are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements for Consumers Energy will be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, August 25, 2018.



New FREE payment service will be available 24/7

On July 1, all phone payments will be processed using Secure Payments. Our staff will no longer accept payments made over the phone. The cooperative's Secure Payments system being implemented is an automated pay-by-telephone system to process debit/credit card and check payments. This system is being used in order to increase security for our members and to comply with the payment security industry credit card standards.

With Secure Payments, you will be able to check your account balance, make payments, and store card or electronic check information for future payments. Simply call 844-201-7196 and have your current phone number and/or account number available. This service is FREE and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!



For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or info@consumersenergy.coop.



ANNUAL MEETING

EAT

Breakfast
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

PLAY

Kids' Activities
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Kids' Movie
10:00 a.m.

LEARN

Annual Business Meeting
10:00 a.m.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 25
CONSUMERS ENERGY'S
HEADQUARTERS
2074 242ND STREET
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158

www.consumersenergy.coop | info@consumersenergy.coop | 800-696-6552



Office Hours
7:30 am — 4:30 pm
Monday through Friday

Contact Us

2074 242nd Street • Marshalltown, Iowa 50158
Phone: 641-752-1593 • Toll-Free: 800-696-6552
Fax: 641-752-5738 • E-mail: info@consumersenergy.coop
www.consumersenergy.coop

Directors:

Bill Hobson, President
Mark Wampler, Vice President
Pat VonAhnen, Secretary-Treasurer
Allan Ambrecht, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
Terry Benskin
Jeff Edler
Arden Greiner
Bob Meimann
John Ripley

Cooperative Energy Advisor Jeff Lanning has been assisting with a Practical Electricity course at Marshalltown High School this spring. The Practical Electricity course employs a “learning by doing” method to study electrical concepts.



Practical Electricity teacher and students learning by doing.

If you have an idea for a topic for The Connection, please contact Kippen Glenney at 800-696-6552 or kglenney@consumersenergy.coop.



Round-Up for Renewables is a voluntary program for Consumers Energy members who wish to donate money each month to the cooperative’s Renewable Energy Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide a means for cooperative members to support renewable energy projects in Consumers Energy’s service territory. Participants in the Round-Up for Renewables Program can choose to have their electric bills rounded up to the next highest dollar or

by a specified dollar amount. These donations will then be added to Consumers Energy’s Renewable Energy Fund for an annual distribution to cooperative members who construct renewable energy projects during that calendar year.

In 2017, Consumers Energy had one member who installed a solar array – Stephen Weldon, who then received a check from the cooperative’s Renewable Energy Fund. For details on how to participate in the Round-Up for Renewables Program, contact the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or info@consumersenergy.coop.

