

## CO-OP'S 86th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING HELD AUGUST 1

Consumers Energy celebrated the cooperative's 86th anniversary on Thursday, August 1, 2024, by hosting an Annual Meeting at its headquarters facility in Marshalltown. Over 150 member accounts were represented with members and guests there to hear speeches and reports. Elected to three-year terms for the co-op's Board of Directors were: Denny Beckman of Marshalltown, Bob Meimann of Colo, and Tony Lem of Slater.

The Nominating Committee met on April 9, 2024, to begin the nomination process for director candidates to fill the vacancies created by the expiring terms of Denny Beckman, Bob Meimann, and Tony Lem. The following members were nominated to be voted upon for the election:



**Denny Beckman**  
Marshalltown



**Bob Meimann**  
Colo



**Tony Lem Slater**

### Three-Year Terms (One elected from each district)

- District No. 1 for Marshall, Jasper, and Tama Counties: Denny Beckman of Marshalltown
- District No. 2 for Story County: Bob Meimann of Colo
- District No. 3 for Polk County: Nancy Flinn of Huxley | Tony Lem of Slater

The Annual Meeting meal was catered by Hy-Vee serving hamburgers, chips, fruit, and bottled water. Members in attendance also enjoyed Thelma's Ice Cream Sandwiches. Entertainment at the event included Education Program fun and a live line demonstration showing what happens when tree branches get in powerlines. The Annual Meeting began shortly after 6:00 p.m. with President Denny Beckman presiding over the meeting. Reports were presented by President Denny Beckman, Secretary-Treasurer Pat VonAhnen, Nominating Committee/Election & Credentials Committee Chairperson Loyd Nelson, and CEO/General Manager Bridget Itzen. Guest speakers at this year's Annual Meeting included Zach Laws of CO2 Refrigeration and the cooperative's Youth Tour representative, Ava Hendricks.

# WIN

ONE OF TWO MONTHLY \$5 BILL CREDITS

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## THIS MONTH'S CONTEST:

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**Submit your answer to the number logic puzzle on page 8-F. The solution will be published in the October newsletter.**

◆ ◆ ◆

**Winners for the month of July:**  
Joe Toot, Nevada  
Karen Anderson, Huxley

**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

Submit via email or mail:  
Email to: [kglenney@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:kglenney@consumersenergy.coop)  
Subject line: Contest

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

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

## September 2024

**Dates To Remember:**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 2 Labor Day - Office Closed
- 3 Bills Due
- 3 Automatic Payments Deducted
- 11 Email / Mail Bills
- 25 Automatic Payments Deducted

**OCTOBER**

- 1 Read Meters
- 3 Bills Due
- 3 Automatic Payments Deducted



# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS



\$50 CASH

Dave Smith, Marshalltown  
 Brian Danielson, Marshalltown  
 Jordan Bruntz, Baxter  
 Paul Heintz, Colo  
 Wayne A Jones Trust, State Center  
 Darin Wohlgemuth, Kelley  
 John W Owen, Elkhart  
 Elvin Hebner & Cindy Taylor, Elkhart  
 Rhonda George, Slater



ELECTRIC TRIMMER

Steven & Marian Hyde, Marshalltown  
 Joyce Peterson, Ames  
 Lisa Anderberg, Ankeny



ELECTRIC MOWER

Tina & Danny Nelson, Marshalltown  
 Jessica Voshell & Jean E Olson, Cambridge  
 Val Stromer, Alleman



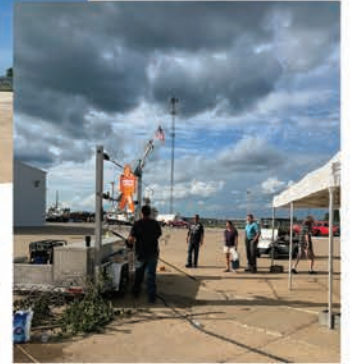
8750 WATT GENERATOR

Pearl Ferneau, Marshalltown



\$25 BILL CREDIT

**MAILED-IN BALLOT PRIZES**  
 Delbert Kellogg REVO TRST, Marshalltown  
 Lil Cubs, Inc., Nevada





# PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency.

Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

*(Use the word bank as a guide.)*



## PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a First Aid Kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.



**WORD BANK:** phone numbers, emergency, alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms



# We're looking for students interested in public service and leadership

High schoolers who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Consumers Energy has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities, and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area, and they are invited to register at [www.IowaYouthTour.com](http://www.IowaYouthTour.com).

"This new program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Bridget Itzen, CEO/General Manager of Consumers Energy. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 1, 7:00 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model**
- **Thursday, Oct. 17, 7:00 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy**
- **Thursday, Oct. 24, 7:00 p.m. – Leadership**

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online by September 25 will receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear about Iowa Youth Tour. Students with an interest in government and public service are encouraged to apply for this weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2025 Youth Tour is slated for June 15-21 next summer.

Learn more at [www.IowaYouthTour.com](http://www.IowaYouthTour.com) or contact Billing & Education Coordinator Tami Kerwood at [tkerwood@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:tkerwood@consumersenergy.coop) or 800-696-6552 for more information.



**WANTED:  
Rural Iowa  
high school  
students  
who have a  
passion for  
leadership**



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)



# Russ Mjolsness

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**JOB: JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN**



**DREAM VACATION: LIKES TO STAY HOME, BUT MAYBE A RESORT EVERY 3 YEARS**



**FAVE MOVIE: LAW ABIDING CITIZEN**



**FAVE FOOD: A GOOD STEAK & LOBSTER COMBO**



**HIDDEN TALENT: RUSS CAN DRAW FRED FLINTSTONE!**

**BACK TO SCHOOL EMOJI PICTONARY**

Answers to last month's Back-to-School Emoji Pictionary

	_____	Pencil bag
	_____	Lunch box
	_____	Monkey bars
	_____	Notebook
	_____	Bus stop
	_____	Homework

# SURVEY

**A portion of our members have been randomly selected to participate in a survey about their home and energy use.**

The information collected provides insights into energy use and changes over time, and is valuable for us and our power supplier to plan for the future.

If you receive a survey in September, we ask that you complete the questionnaire online or return the paper copy in the envelope provided.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!





## CO-OP MEMBERS ASSIST OTHERS THROUGH OPERATION ROUND-UP® PROGRAM

Consumers Energy's members contributed \$2,039.41 to the cooperative's Operation Round-Up Program from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, that was distributed to local community action agencies. The cooperative was able to assist 13 families who needed economic assistance with their energy bills. Currently, 236 members are donating funds to Operation Round-Up.

Operation Round-Up is a program designed for members who wish to donate small change each month to cooperative members who need economic assistance with their energy bills. Members who sign up for this program can have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar or specify an exact dollar amount to contribute monthly to the program. The co-op then annually distributes the Operation Round-Up funds to local community action agencies to assist low-income families with winter heating bills and winterization of their homes.

### How does the Operation Round-Up Program work?

There are two options for participating in Operation Round-Up. The commitment chosen would be effective with the month's bill following receipt of the Authorization Form.

- Each month Consumers Energy "rounds up" the electric bills of participating members to the next highest dollar. For example, a member's monthly bill of \$160.73 would automatically be rounded up to \$161 with the additional 27 cents going to the Operation Round-Up Program.
- Another option available for this program allows members to specify an exact dollar amount to be contributed each month.

### Submit Authorization Form to Participate in Operation Round-Up!

Would you like to donate funds to Operation Round-Up to help others in need of assistance with their energy bills? To enroll in Operation Round-Up, members should complete the included Authorization Form and return it to the cooperative office. Additional questions can be answered by contacting the co-op's Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or [info@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:info@consumersenergy.coop).

## Authorization Form

Choose only one option:

- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up Program. I wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar.
- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up Program. I wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to the Operation Round-Up Program, and the amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to:  
**Consumers Energy**  
**2074 242nd Street**  
**Marshalltown, IA 50158**

## Number Logic Puzzle

Enter the monthly newsletter contest by sending in your answer!  
 Contest details are on page 8-A.

1	16	49
4	?	64
9	36	81

What number should be in the middle?

## Please don't attach anything to electric poles.

It can be tempting to hang signs, basketball hoops, security cameras, and other items on our utility poles, but there are good reasons why you shouldn't.

- 1 Attaching things to poles is dangerous for you.**  
To keep your family and yourself safe, stay away from all electric equipment, including overhead power lines.
- 2 Attachments endanger our employees who climb poles.**  
A tiny puncture in a worker's gloves can expose him to electric shock, causing serious injury or death.
- 3 Attachments damage poles.**  
When the sealed outer layers of a pole are pierced, moisture and insects creep in and cause damage that shortens the life of the pole, increasing maintenance costs.

## LANDOWNERS:

# Know the facts before signing a solar project lease

If you're a landowner in rural Iowa, you may have received solicitations in the mail offering land lease options for proposed solar projects. Often, these letters offer attractive per-acre rental payments for various phases of a long-term proposed project, promising steady and predictable income. However, like with all contracts, the devil is in the details. Before signing an agreement, we encourage you to do some homework and seek legal counsel to protect your rights.

Most of these letters are coming from companies outside of Iowa looking to lease land for future solar projects. We have noticed that many of these letters refer erroneously to Iowa law; referencing legislation (Senate File 2356) that did not pass last session. In fact, Iowa's electric cooperatives and other groups registered in opposition to the legislation due to its likely negative impact on electric co-ops and our members.

Some solicitations falsely claim local support for their solar initiative or that the electric output would somehow benefit your neighbors or the local electric cooperative. We have also seen letters that deceptively include endorsements attributed to the Iowa Farm Bureau. IFB's legal team is working to remove these perceived endorsements.

Please consult your legal counsel before signing any agreement or contract. Your legal counsel can help explain the benefits and disadvantages of these agreements, answer any questions you have, and help negotiate fair and equitable terms. These are long-term agreements that can give the solar company exclusive options and control of your land for decades. Spending some extra time up front to better understand the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement can save you significant time, money, and headaches in the future.

For more information, we encourage landowners to reach out to our Member Services Department at Consumers Energy. You can contact us directly at **800-696-6552** or **info@consumersenergy.coop** to learn more about these proposed projects.

## THE MOST SECURE WAY TO ACCESS YOUR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT?



SCAN HERE TO  
LEARN MORE,  
REGISTER, OR  
LOGIN!

SMARTHUB CAN BE USED ON THE CO-OP'S WEBSITE OR ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.  
LOGIN OR DOWNLOAD TODAY!

### With **SmartHub**, you can:

- access your account information with ease
- view your billing & payment history
- receive important notifications directly from Consumers Energy
- quickly check the statewide outage map
- effortlessly contact **YOUR** electric cooperative

Using the SmartHub app ensures you're always connected directly with **YOUR** electric co-op. You won't have to worry about contacting the wrong company or falling victim to scams through fake numbers or fraudulent websites.

**If you are contacted by a scammer, please notify Consumers Energy at 800-696-6552 or info@consumersenergy.coop.**



## CONSUMERS ENERGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Marshall, Jasper, & Tama Counties:  
Denny Beckman  
President  
dbeckman@consumersenergy.coop

Bill Hobson  
Director  
whobson@consumersenergy.coop

Pat VonAhnen  
Secretary-Treasurer  
pvonahren@consumersenergy.coop

District 2 - Story County:  
Arden Greiner  
Director  
agreiner@consumersenergy.coop

Bob Meimann  
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
rmeimann@consumersenergy.coop

Steve Quick  
Director  
squick@consumersenergy.coop

District 3 - Polk County:  
Craig Griffieon  
Vice President  
cgriffieon@consumersenergy.coop

Tony Lem  
Director  
alem@consumersenergy.coop

Jennifer Sease  
Director  
jsease@consumersenergy.coop

Energy Efficiency Cost per kWh:  
\$0.000364

## To report an outage, call 800-696-6552.

For the most accurate outage updates, check SmartHub or [www.consumersenergy.coop](http://www.consumersenergy.coop) for messages, the statewide outage map, or call Consumers Energy.

## WAYS TO PAY YOUR CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL



Online or the app  
[www.consumersenergy.coop](http://www.consumersenergy.coop)

Automatic recurring  
monthly payments



In person

By phone 24/7  
855-939-3832



By mail

By dropbox



2074 242nd Street | Marshalltown, IA 50158



641-752-1593 | 800-696-6552



855-939-3832



641-752-5738



[www.consumersenergy.coop](http://www.consumersenergy.coop)



[info@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:info@consumersenergy.coop)

OFFICE HOURS  
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
MONDAY - FRIDAY



SMARTHUB

- Use SmartHub online or download the app!
- Manage payments, contact the co-op, & view usage history!



OPERATION ROUND-UP

- Help your neighbors with heating bills.
- Donate spare change monthly by rounding up your electric bill.

**For information on ways to pay or programs and services offered, contact the Member Services Department.**