

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC  
A Tractor Energy Cooperative

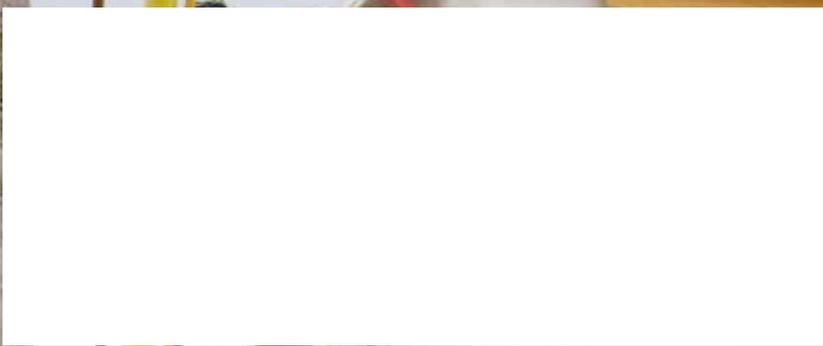
JUNE 2016

What's an  
**office worker**  
doing in the  
bucket?

Win a pair of  
two-way radios  
with headsets!  
See page 5

Ask these  
questions  
before hiring a  
solar contractor

It's time to  
plan a  
family  
picnic



Caulk  
energy-wasting  
air leaks in  
your home



# 2015 CIPCO Power Supply Report

BY MARCEL FETT

Though not without its challenges, another successful year for Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative has come and gone. As your cooperative's representative on both the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors and Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) Board of Directors, I take my roles seriously to ensure your energy needs are met in a safe, reliable and affordable way.



As our cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO has made significant investments in carbon- and emissions-free resources of energy over the last decade. Wind, hydroelectricity, nuclear and landfill gas now make up more than 54 percent of CIPCO's total energy portfolio.

That's good news as we look ahead to regulatory changes coming down the pipeline. The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan continues to be our main source of attention. For Iowa, it means a reduction of 42 percent in carbon dioxide emissions per megawatt-hour.

As with any new regulation, CIPCO develops a plan to be compliant, then works to minimize the impact of the regulation on its members such as Guthrie County REC. Even while the U.S. Supreme Court has placed the Clean Power Plan on hold for now, CIPCO remains focused on overcoming the challenges and doing its best to maintain long-term rate stability in the midst of this changing regulatory environment.

In fact, the rate at which Guthrie County REC purchases wholesale electricity from CIPCO has remained relatively flat over the past 7 years, while CIPCO has made important investments in its transmission infrastructure and diverse generation resources. For Guthrie County REC, this financial stability is a great benefit as we plan our operating budget from year to year.

Another component of our annual budget is the money Guthrie County REC, and each of CIPCO's member

distribution systems, receives back in the form of patronage dividends. These funds represent CIPCO's excess revenue for the year that is then forwarded on to you, our member-owners.

The CIPCO board recently authorized the allocation of \$16 million in patronage. This allocation breaks down as follows: \$5 million current dividend payable in 2016, \$3 million allocated to the 15-year roll and \$8 million allocated to the 40-year roll. The \$0.6 million balance of the 2015 margin was allocated to reserve for contingent losses. Additionally, the CIPCO board approved the retirement of patronage dividends totaling \$7.8 million dollars in 2016. This represents the retirement of \$2 million of 2000 patronage capital, \$5 million of the 2015 current dividend and an additional cash retirement of \$0.8 million representing the member election for current payment of the 40-year allocation. The total payment to Guthrie County REC equals \$424,091.31. ⚡

Marcel Fett is a director at Guthrie County REC and the co-op's representative on the CIPCO board of directors.



**Guthrie County REC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206  
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Website**  
www.guthrie-rec.coop

## Legislative Action

### Electric co-op advocates spend valuable time in Washington, D.C.



Guthrie County REC, along with representatives from 35 other Iowa electric co-ops, attended the annual Legislative Conference hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in early May. This gathering ensures Iowa's elected officials are fully aware of the thoughts and concerns of their constituents who are served by electric co-ops in Iowa.

Key issues addressed included FEMA disaster reform, EPA's 111(d) Clean Power Plan, geothermal tax

credits and coal ash regulation. Board member Marcel Fett was able to meet with White House staff, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and congressional staff – as well as to honor former Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin.

“I believe staff of Iowa's congressional delegation now has a better understanding of how legislation and regulations being discussed in Congress would affect the affordability and reliability of electricity in Iowa,” said Fett. ⚡

## In the Community

# Clover Kids learn about the job of a lineman

Whenever we get the chance, your cooperative is in the community to demonstrate the lineman's job, teach electrical safety practices and generally spread the word about what the electric cooperative is, does and offers.

In April, Guthrie County REC lineman Jeremy Gruber was invited to speak to a group of about 40 members of Guthrie County Clover Kids. Ranging from kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, the students tried on lineman safety and climbing gear and learned about the lineman's job and electrical safety. Gruber also demonstrated how to climb a pole and how the bucket truck helps linemen repair lines.

Both Gruber and Guthrie County REC employee Dea Kress have children in



the Guthrie County Clover Kids.

Do you have a community or school group that would enjoy a free program offered by Guthrie County REC? Contact member service clerk Marlene Chalfant at 888-747-2206 to learn more. ⚡

## Operations Update

# We're prepared for summer storms

BY JIM TERWILLIGER

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. At Guthrie County REC, crews are working year-round to ensure the right-of-way is clear of potentially destructive vegetation.



However, damage also can occur to transmission stations and substations. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

First, we mobilize our line crew and other critical staff, no matter what the hour. Every phone line is utilized to take your outage report calls. Crews will concentrate on repairing damage to transmission lines first.

Next, we focus on our substations. If the issue is still not resolved, we work to localize the issue by pinpointing problems to service lines that deliver power to neighborhoods and communities.

We do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. In the event of any power outage, you can trust that Guthrie County REC is ready to respond. ⚡

Jim Terwilliger is the line superintendent for Guthrie County REC.

## Editor's Choice Contest

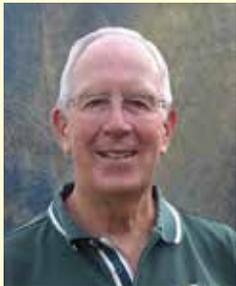
# Win a pair of two-way radios

Stay connected at work or play with Midland's GXT1000VP4 FRS radios. The waterproof units have a maximum range up to 36 miles and include NOAA weather alerts. To enter, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and fill out the entry form no later than June 30, 2016. ⚡



## How Your Co-op Works

# Get to know a director of Guthrie County REC



**NAME:** Bob Batschelet.

**MY FAMILY:** My wife, Cheryl, and I have four children: Cheri, Brenda, Susan and Peter. We also have five grandchildren, with one more on the way.

**OCCUPATION:** I am a retired independent insurance agent and real estate broker. I presently am a crop insurance agent working with a local agency.

**MY FIRST JOB EVER:** My first paying job was mowing lawns with a power mower. Before that I used a push mower at our house for an allowance.

**WHAT'S ONE THING THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR:** I hope there is always chocolate syrup, so I can enjoy ice cream.

**SOMEONE I ADMIRE AND WHY:** I admire all volunteers for community and civic organizations since they get so little recognition and accomplish much for all of us.

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** I like to golf, fish, read and relax with friends and family.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** I mostly read suspense fiction by a variety of authors.

**FAVORITE VACATION SPOT AND WHY:** Arizona would be my favorite, since I get to see part of our family – but I also like Canadian fishing trips.

**WHAT'S ONE THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT GCREC AFTER BECOMING A DIRECTOR THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE?** I've learned how GCREC strives to be equitable to its patrons and still maintain a solid financial footing. This is a big difference from running a business solely for profit.

**WHAT'S HARD ABOUT BEING A COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR?** There is so much to learn, and the energy landscape continues to evolve.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** Reputation is built on what you do and kept on what you don't do. ⚡

# KEEP YOUR COOL

Ceiling fans are a great way to keep cool in the summer.

Regular use can allow a thermostat to be set four degrees higher without affecting comfort in the home.

Make sure fan is turning the right direction for summer, usually counter-clockwise (left), to create a cool breeze.

[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



**THINK BEFORE YOU HANG THAT SIGN!**



Our linemen risk injury to themselves and damage to their equipment, rubber gloves, boots and protective clothing when items are posted on poles.

## Keep utility poles free of signs and fliers!

Avoid posting signs, fliers, birdhouses, balloons and especially anything with staples, tacks or nails to utility poles.



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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## In the News

# Co-op names 2016 scholarship winners

Each year, Guthrie County REC demonstrates its commitment to the communities it serves by offering scholarships for high school students. Your cooperative is proud to support these young members of our communities who wish to continue their educations after high school.

Three students have been selected to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward their educational goals:

### Mitchell Nelsen Audubon

Mitchell is the son of Shannon and Todd Nelsen of Audubon. He graduated from Audubon High School on May 22 and will attend Iowa State University to pursue a degree in mechanical, electrical or aerospace engineering. Mitchell is looking forward to being a Cyclone and also wishes to study abroad for a semester to further expand his global perspective.

In high school, Mitchell was involved in football, cross country, track, baseball, speech, FFA, Student Senate, NHS, band and many other activities. He has also been active in his community and church through youth group, work camp and Meals from the Heartland.



### Aaron Klinge Panora

Aaron is the son of Kathy and Kirby Klinge of Panora. He graduated from Panora High School on May 22 and will pursue a business management/marketing major at a 4-year university. He hopes to find an internship to learn various aspects of the business world.

Throughout high school, Aaron participated in NHS, student coun-

cil, football and basketball. He has volunteered in his community through his church, being a Little League coach and helping out with Tori's Angels Foundation fundraising. This summer Aaron will be playing baseball and working at Lake Panorama National Golf Course.

### Reid Cobb Panora

Reid is the son of Kim and Jeff Cobb of Panora. A graduate of Panora High School, he will pursue a biology major at Simpson College in Indianola. Reid is going to play golf at Simpson and is looking forward to setting new goals to improve his golf game.

During high school, Reid was a leader on the golf, football and basketball teams and a member of NHS. He's been involved with his church youth group, refereed for youth athletic programs and played in the junior golf program at Lake Panorama National, which he says has been an important benefit to his golf career. Reid will work for the Lake Panorama Association this summer. ⚡



## Office Closing

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Monday, July 4, for Independence Day. We wish all of our members a safe and happy celebration!