

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Trillium Energy Cooperative

DECEMBER 2016

Win an air fryer, and eat healthier without giving up the taste of your favorite foods! ▶ See page 5

Season's Greetings

from your electric cooperative!

Give your home a **kid-safety check** for the holidays

Plan to attend the **Annual Meeting** on Jan. 7, 2017



Changing technologies bring fresh approaches to power pricing

Action Alert



Make a note to vote!

If you can't make it to the Annual Meeting, you still can vote by mail, as long as your ballot is received at the cooperative's office by 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2017. Only members living in the districts with a seat up for election – Districts 4, 5 and 6 – will receive a ballot and be able to vote. Voting for your district representative is an important part of being a Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative member! 🗳️



Guthrie County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Office

1406 State Street • P.O. Box 7
Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007

Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone Number

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

Website

www.guthrie-rec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

How Your Co-op Works

Incumbents eye another term

All nominees for re-election to the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors are names that should be familiar to cooperative members. That's because all of the candidates running this year are incumbents who have dutifully served Guthrie County REC as board members.

Please participate in the election of your Board by voting when you receive the ballot in the mail. Only members living in the districts with a seat up for election – Districts 4, 5 and 6 – will receive a ballot and be able to vote.

All ballots must be returned to the cooperative office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, for your vote to count. If you plan to attend the cooperative's Annual Meeting, you may turn in your ballots at that time. The Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 7, 2017, at the Lake Panorama Conference Center in Panorama, Iowa.

District 4

Represents Victory Township in Guthrie County

NAME: Bob Batschelet (incumbent)
ADDRESS: 6754 Panorama Dr., Panora

EDUCATION: Graduated from Guthrie Center High School; attended Central College in Pella and earned a business degree; Air Force veteran

FAMILY: Wife, Cheryl; four children – Cheri, Brenda, Susan and Peter; six grandchildren

OCCUPATION: Retired independent insurance agent with an emphasis on agricultural coverage and real estate broker; currently a crop insurance agent working with a local agent

ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS: Currently vice president of the Lake Panorama Association; have been on church boards, civic boards and economic development boards



Annual Meeting Agenda

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017
Lake Panorama Conference Center, Panora

11:30 a.m. Registration and Meal

12:30 p.m. Call to Order
Invocation
Introduction
Business Session
Board President's Remarks
General Manager's Remarks
Drawing for Door Prizes
Adjourn

Why are you seeking re-election to the board of directors?

I've learned a lot about Guthrie County REC in the last year (plus a few months) and have much more to learn. I am working toward my Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) status and have come to appreciate the way our cooperative functions. I am striving to be a good board member.

Is there anything else you'd like GCREC members to know about you before they vote?

We often take our electrical service for granted, and this is a result of the fine, conscientious employees we have (or had in the past). I am interested in alternative energy and will continue to work for all members of the GCREC in an effort to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric power.

on Board of Directors

District 5

Represents Washington and Greenbriar Townships in Greene County; Dallas Township in Dallas County; Highland, Dodge, Richland and the north 4 tiers of sections in North Cass (80-30) Townships in Guthrie County

NAME: Don Schwartz (incumbent)

ADDRESS: 1944 130th St., Bayard

EDUCATION: Bayard Community High School

FAMILY: Wife, Carolyn; three sons, two daughters, three granddaughters and one grandson

OCCUPATION: Work full-time on family farm

ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS: Guthrie County REC Board of Directors since 2005 (credentialed in 2010 and current board president); member of United Methodist Church, Bayard Lions Club and Guthrie County Cattlemen; Highland Township trustee; served on Coon Rapids-Bayard school committee; REC member since 1985



Why are you seeking re-election to the board of directors?

Because electricity is such a vital necessity to Iowa's rural economy, we must continue to be involved locally and politically to continue to provide electricity at an affordable, safe and reliable rate. I would like to continue to serve as a director for those reasons.

District 6

Represents Grant, Thompson, Stuart, the part of Valley in 78-32, the part of Beaver and Jackson Townships in 78-31, and all Penn and Stuart Township except sections 11 through 14 78-30 of Guthrie County

NAME: Steve Bireline (incumbent)

ADDRESS: 53326 Frontier Rd., Adair

EDUCATION: Adair-Casey Community High School; Iowa Western Community College

FAMILY: Wife, Tammy; daughters Amanda (Jason) and Stef (Marcus), sons Chris and Alex, six grandchildren

OCCUPATION: Former owner and present co-owner of Westline Fencing

ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS: Guthrie County REC Board of Directors since 1997; Credentialed Cooperative Director program in 2008; Grant Township trustee; Retired Adair Fire Department volunteer; member of St. John's Lutheran Church (elder/treasurer-secretary, trustee); REC member since 1980



Why are you seeking re-election to the board of directors?

It is an honor to be able to serve the members of Guthrie County REC. It is fun to listen and talk to members about their concerns and interests. I will do my best to address the concerns of our members. I have taken my job as a director very seriously and have enjoyed it very much. I have learned a lot and hope to learn more. ⚡

From the Board

Guthrie County REC Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The Annual Meeting of the members of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative will be Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. at the Lake Panorama Conference Center in Panora.

The meeting will include:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. Election of three directors for a term of three (3) years each. The following individuals are nominated:

- District 4: Bob Batschelet*
- District 5: Don Schwartz*
- District 6: Steve Bireline*

*Denotes incumbent

Members have the right to vote for one of the candidates to be elected from their own voting district.

3. All other matters as may regularly come before said meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Members are encouraged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors and transact such other business as may come before the meeting. ⚡

Dated this 1st day of December, 2016

Keith Peterson, Secretary

Editor's Choice Contest

Win a \$250 air fryer and eat healthier!

The Philips Airfryer circulates superheated air around a metal mesh cooking basket, requiring little or no oil as it fries, bakes, roasts and grills. And, of course, you'll save energy, compared to using your oven or cooktop. Go to www.usa.philips.com for more details.

Enter the contest by Dec. 31, 2016, at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com. ⚡



Cooperative earns safety award



At its regional meeting in Minneapolis Sept. 21-22, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association awarded Guthrie County REC with its Safety Achievement Award.

This award recognizes cooperatives that have established a foundation for continuous improvement and emphasized leadership engagement toward improving safety results. The Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program better enables cooperatives to reduce injuries over time by placing greater awareness and focus on key safety elements, an annual safety improvement plan and achieving safety excellence.

"Making sure our employees return home safe at the end of the day is our number one priority," said Cozy Nelsen, CEO. "We take safety practices very seriously at all different levels of our cooperative. We are honored to have been recognized by the national association for these efforts."

Office Closing

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 2. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday season!

Line work is a year-round job

BY ELDEN WOLFE

The work of our line crew doesn't stop just because the weather turns colder. We go all year round, concentrating on different projects to help keep the electricity flowing to our cooperative members safely, reliably and affordably.

The winter months are a good time for inspections. Crews will be out inspecting all the service lines in our territory throughout the cold months. They do this to identify any weak spots early and get a good look at how the system is operating overall.

Crews will also be inspecting all of the meters in Guthrie County REC's service territory. Again, this is a routine project that ensures you're paying an accurate amount for the electricity you receive and use.

If you see one of our crews on your property, it's likely they're performing this routine maintenance. Many times, crews might walk through fields or places so they can gain access to inspect lines. Guthrie County REC employees wear clothing that identifies them as employees of the

co-op, and they're happy to provide company identification if asked.

You'll likely also see our truck nearby, with the cooperative name and logo displayed on it. If you have any questions about line crew work in your area, feel free to call us at 888-747-2206.

Lastly, as we slide out of winter and into spring, we'll renew our efforts to cut back overgrown trees, brush and

other vegetation that may impede the delivery of electricity. The best time for this pruning is late winter and early spring, while trees are still dormant – but just before they begin to open their buds. Our line crews work hard to keep vegetation under control to reduce the risk of outages due to broken tree limbs or other wayward weeds that may cause damage.

On behalf of the Guthrie County REC Operations Department, I'd like to wish all of our members happy holidays. We look forward to serving you in the new year! ⚡

Elden Wolfe is the line superintendent for Guthrie County REC.



From Our Family to Yours
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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