

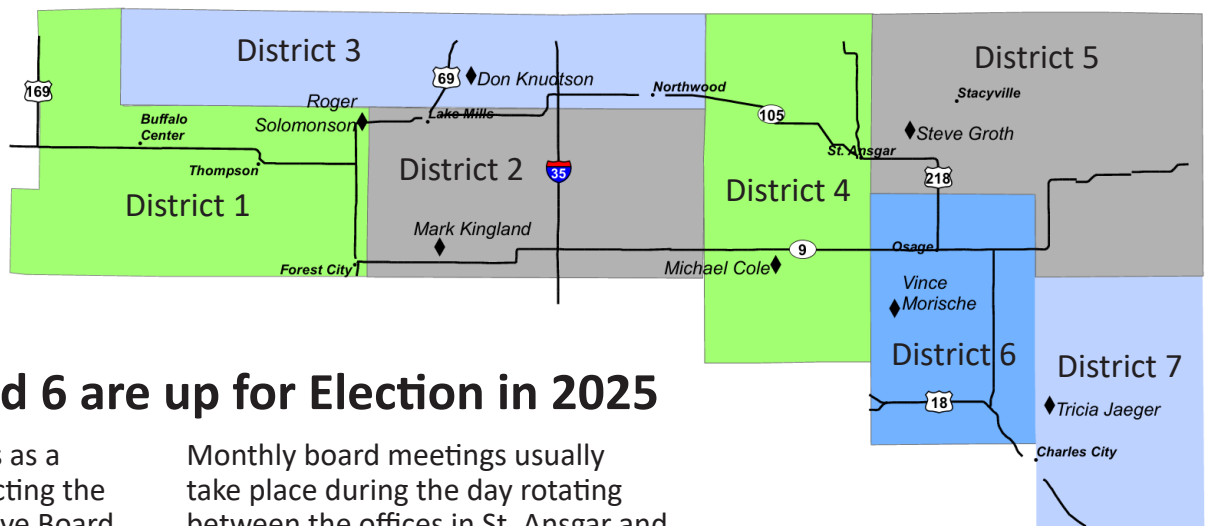
& NEWS VIEWS

A monthly publication for members of Heartland Power Cooperative | December 2024

Consider Running for the Board of Directors



Jon Leerar
CEO/General Manager



Districts 3, 4, and 6 are up for Election in 2025

One of your responsibilities as a cooperative member is electing the Heartland Power Cooperative Board of Directors. Are you, or is someone you know, interested in serving on the Heartland Power Board of Directors?

To be considered for election to the Board of Directors, an individual must be a member of Heartland Power Cooperative and listed on the membership card. If only one individual is listed on the membership card, a joint membership may be obtained. In addition to being a member, the individual must reside and receive electric service from the cooperative at a location within the district in which they are seeking election.

Monthly board meetings usually take place during the day rotating between the offices in St. Ansgar and Thompson. Other board meetings and trainings take place on average of one day per month. Candidates for election to the Board of Directors are selected by a nominating committee comprised of members who adequately represent the districts up for election.

Appointed members of this year's Nominating Committee are listed to the right. If you are interested, or would like to submit the name of a member who is interested in being considered as a candidate, please contact or send information to one of the nominating committee members or contact our office.

Nominating Committee

Dave Voight, 515-450-9261
Bob Wetherell, 641-220-3055
Al Witt, 641-745-9702
Jason Hackbart, 641-390-0074
Brent Bjelland, 515-509-4442

If you are interested in being on the HPC Board of Directors, please contact one of the nominating committee members listed above.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



New HPC Logo Coming in 2025 | p 2
Heartland Power Cooperative will receive an updated look starting in January!



HPC Scholarships & 2025 Youth Tour | p 2
Area youth can apply for two great opportunities from Heartland Power Cooperative!



Operation Round-Up Year in Review | p 5
Thanks to the generosity of our members, \$16,000 has been given to our local communities in 2024!

Monthly Quiz

\$25 Bill Credit Winner:
Mark Reis, Elma

This Month's Question:

During the 2025 legislative session, Iowa's electric cooperatives will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa's law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in what negative outcomes?

Quiz Guidelines:

Each member who sends in a correct answer by the 31st of the month will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit.

Mail or email quiz answers to energy@heartlandpower.com.

New Logo Coming To Heartland Power Cooperative



Heartland
POWER
COOPERATIVE

Heartland Power Cooperative is excited to unveil a new logo for the cooperative in 2025. The new logo, seen above, will replace the branding you've known and trusted since the cooperative's establishment in 1998.

In the coming months, you can expect to see a change in a variety of cooperative materials as our newsletter, website, billing statements, etc. will all begin to make the switch to the new logo, colors, and branding.

While our look may change, the core of who we are and what we do will remain the same. Our commitment to you, our cooperative members, is our primary

focus day in and day out. We hope you enjoy this refreshed look for our cooperative as we continue to provide you with the safe, reliable electricity you've come to know and expect from Heartland Power Cooperative. We're proud to be your locally trusted energy provider.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOLERS

We have TWO great opportunities for you!

1 - YOUTH TOUR



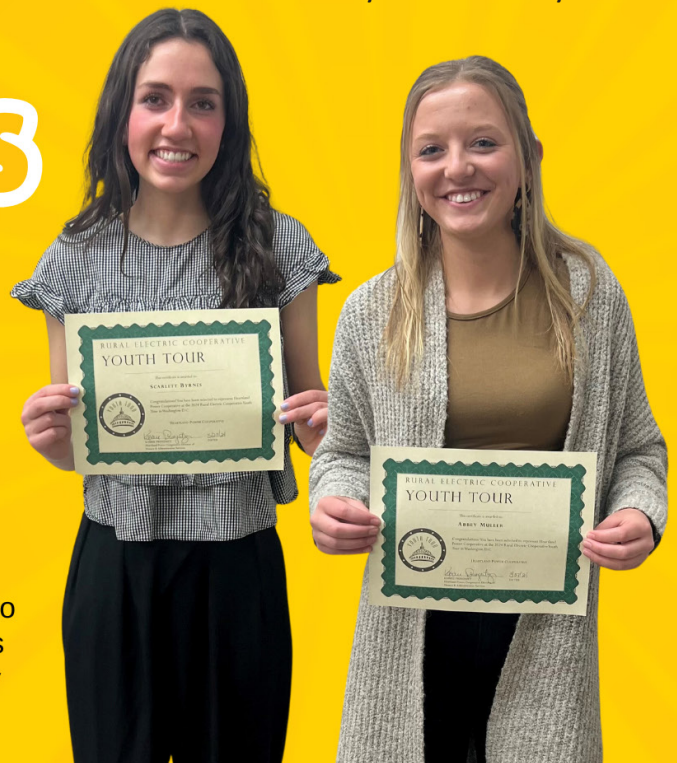
Sophomores and Juniors, this one's for you! Enjoy a week-long, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to learn more about electric cooperatives, government, and American history!

2 - SCHOLARSHIPS



Heartland Power will provide a **\$1,000** scholarship to **10** high school seniors and scholarships to students enrolled in a Power Line Program. See full eligibility requirements online.

2024 Youth Tour Representatives
Scarlett Byrnes & Abbey Muller



Defined Electric Service Areas Protect Rural Iowans

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, we are constantly monitoring issues that could impact the people and rural communities served by Iowa's electric cooperatives. Our state's 2025 Legislative Session will begin on January 13 and IAEC will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa's law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. I'd like to explain why this law has been so crucial to our mission to serve co-op member-consumers.

What are defined service areas?

In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve you. This regulatory protection is called defined electric service territory and the State of Iowa wrote Senate File 1258 into law almost 50 years ago to efficiently ensure that every square foot of our state has an electric utility obligated to provide service upon request.

Why do Iowa's electric cooperatives support defined service areas?

Electric co-ops are committed to safeguarding defined service areas because they protect rural Iowans by supporting affordable electric rates, fostering a resilient electric grid and encouraging economic development.

Defined service areas provide a high degree of certainty to Iowa's electric cooperatives which allows us to confidently make long-term investments in power generation to maintain affordable rates, finance major grid upgrades to ensure resiliency and utilize new technologies to enhance service. Electric co-ops can also be proactive in maintenance and vegetation management to improve reliability for the homes, farms and businesses we power every day. Additionally, defined service areas allow electric co-ops to robustly support

economic development efforts in the communities we serve, which retain and create local jobs and provide needed services and tax revenue.

Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans. This issue is non-negotiable for Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which are mission driven to power lives and empower communities by providing electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable.

Since the 1990s, several states have deregulated their electric utilities, but the hopes that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability have not materialized. In fact, according to a 2023 *New York Times* investigation, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." The report goes on to conclude that "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity..." This outcome is unacceptable for the Iowans we serve.

We invite you to learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com where you will also find links to research and studies on deregulation. Your locally owned electric cooperatives are working hard to safeguard defined service area protections that have benefitted Iowans since 1976.

Article by
Leslie Kaufman

Executive Vice President
and General Manager of the
Iowa Association of Electric
Cooperatives



Learn More About Defined Electric Service

- Why are territories being challenged?
- View research studies on deregulation.

A STORM IS ALWAYS READY, ARE YOU?

Tips to Prepare Before a Winter Storm or Power Outage

Dave Low
Director of Operations



During An Outage:

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.



Preventing Fires:

Keep flammable items away from heat sources. Always plug space heaters directly into an outlet. Use smoke alarms.



Use Generators Safely:

Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet from windows, doors, and attached garages.



Be Prepared On The Road:

Test your battery, check tire tread, and use deicing fluid. Always keep your fuel tank full and add a winter survival kit.



Keep Your Devices Charged:

Keep devices charged to stay connected and informed.

Vehicle Winter Survival Kit

You never know when you may be stranded.

- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Snow Shovel
- Ice Scraper
- Warm Blankets
- Bottled Water
- Food & Snacks
- Mittens, hats, and boots
- Cell Phone and charger
- Flares/Triangle
- Booster Cables



Winter Preparedness For Your Home

Your primary concerns at home during a winter storm are a loss of heat, power, and phone service. These factors, paired with a shortage of supplies, can lead to challenges if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Do your part by preparing in advance for extended storms and outages.

Home Preparedness Checklist

- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered weather radio
- ☐ Extra food and water that require no cooking or refrigeration
- ☐ Extra prescription medicine
- ☐ Baby items such as diapers and formula
- ☐ First-aid supplies
- ☐ Heating fuel: refuel before you are empty
- ☐ Fire extinguisher and smoke alarms
- ☐ Extra pet food and shelter

We're prepared, are you?

Don't be caught off guard. Plan now for an extended winter storm or power outage.

Sign up for power outage text notifications at heartlandpower.com/outages



OPERATION ROUND-UP

HOW YOUR CHANGE HAS CHANGED LIVES THIS YEAR



\$8,300
MEDICAL/ACCIDENTS



\$3,900
LOCAL AMBULANCES



\$2,400
LOCAL FAIR BOARDS & 4-H



\$1,400
OTHER AREA ORGANIZATIONS

Operation Round-Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. This change is used to assist worthy causes right here in our area.

For those who opt to participate in this program, the rounding up results in an average donation of \$6 per year. Let us know if you would like to join this worthwhile program. We'd be glad to get you signed up!



Karrie Pringnitz
Director of Finance & Admin.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

\$16,000 GIVEN BACK TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES THIS YEAR!

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF OPERATION ROUND-UP IN 2003, WE HAVE DONATED OVER \$427,500 TOGETHER!



The Gift of Power

THE WARMEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE

To: _____ From: _____
Address: _____ Amount: _____

A special message will be printed on the bottom of the recipient's next electric bill stating they have received a gift and who it is from. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 641-584-2251 or stop by our office. After completing, clip and return form and check to: Heartland Power Cooperative, PO Box 70, St. Ansgar, IA 50472

Disconnected Service/Idle Service Policy



Services may be temporarily disconnected at a member's request, however if the member requests the service be reconnected within the next 15 months, they will be charged the minimum bill service charge for the months the service was disconnected and a \$60 reconnect fee. Services that are not connected at the end of the calendar year will be notified as they must pay a \$48 fee to have Heartland Power maintain the service in a state of readiness for the next calendar year. If the service is reconnected during the year, the member will receive a \$4 credit on their bill for each month that service is active for the year.

If the member elects not to pay the idle service charge, Heartland Power may remove the service at any time. Once the service line has been removed, removal costs and construction costs to rebuild the service line may be charged to the member to reinstall the service. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this policy.

2024 Rebates Due December 31, 2024

If you have purchased and installed energy efficient equipment in 2024, make sure to check if it qualifies for a rebate from Heartland Power!

Rebate forms can be found on our website. Please contact us with questions or to receive a physical copy in the mail. Rebate forms, invoices, and any necessary Energy Star labels must be submitted to Heartland Power by December 31, 2024. Below are just a few of the many rebates available through Heartland Power Cooperative!

- Electric Water Heaters
- Appliance Recycling: Freezer, Refrigerator, Room A/C
- Energy Audits & Audit-Recommended Improvements
- LED Lighting
- Windows

Rebate forms are available on our website
www.heartlandpower.com

Heartland POWER COOPERATIVE
Your Sustainable Energy Cooperative

2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION INCENTIVES
REBATE FORM

Return completed form and required paperwork to Heartland Power Cooperative
PO Box 70 | St. Ansgar, IA 50472 | or email to energy@heartlandpower.com

MEMBER NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____
INCENTIVE USED FOR: ☐ RESIDENCE ☐ FARM ☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ INDUSTRIAL/GOVERNMENT ☐ OTHER _____ DATE: _____ PHONE: _____

GENERAL REBATE INFORMATION
• Submit rebate form, copy of your invoice including brand & model #, and blue Energy Star label if applicable.
• Rebates are in place through December 31, 2024 or until funds are depleted.
• FOR ALL REBATES Rebate application form and copy of receipt must be submitted within 3 months of purchase/installation and no later than January 6, 2025.
• Rebate cannot exceed purchase cost.

CUSTOM REBATES
Please Note: Commercial and agricultural customers that install certain types of energy saving equipment and/or incorporate energy efficiency measures may qualify for custom rebates. New and existing facilities are eligible. Please contact us for details.

☐ **HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES** PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR INVOICE & ENERGY STAR LABEL
☐ Clothes Dryer (\$25 each) | Must be Energy Star & must be electric | Model # _____
☐ Dishwasher (\$25 each) | Must be Energy Star | Model # _____
☐ Refrigerator (\$25 each) | Must be Energy Star | Model # _____
☐ Dehumidifier (\$25 each) | Must be Energy Star and 10 cubic ft. or greater | Model # _____
☐ Inductive Range (\$25 each) | Model # _____
☐ Freezer (\$25 each) | Model # _____
☐ Recycling - Freezer (\$50 each) | Must be Energy Star and 10 cubic ft. or greater | Model # _____
☐ Recycling - Refrigerator (\$50 each) | Must be working appliance
☐ Recycling - Room Air Conditioner (\$50 each) | Must be working appliance

☐ **WATER HEATING** PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR INVOICE
Electric water heater must have uniform energy factor (UEF) indicated below. Water heater must be controlled by the cooperative's load control program. Rebate cannot exceed purchase and installation or repair costs. Submit rebate form with a copy of your invoice/receipt showing the efficiency or repair. (Tankless water heaters NOT included)
☐ 50-74 Gallons: UEF 0.88 or above (\$250/unit) UEF _____ Gallons: _____ Water Heater Model # _____
☐ 75-99 Gallons: UEF 0.88 or above (\$500/unit) UEF _____ Gallons: _____
☐ 100+ Gallons Capacity: UEF 0.88 or above (\$500/unit) UEF _____ Gallons: _____
☐ Heat Pump Water Heater - Load control not required, UEF 2.20 or above (\$500/unit) UEF _____ Gallons: _____
☐ Water Heater Repair (\$75/repair)

☐ **LIGHTING** PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR INVOICE
☐ LED Bulb (\$0.50/Bulb) \$ bulb min. | Quantity _____ x \$0.50/Bulb = _____
☐ LED Exit Sign (\$5/sign) Quantity _____ x \$5/sign = _____
☐ Occupancy Sensor (\$15/sensor) Quantity _____ x \$15/sensor = _____
☐ LED Fixture (\$0.50/800 lumen) | Quantity _____ x \$0.50/800 lumen = _____
Model # of Fixture _____

☐ **WINDOWS** PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR INVOICE
Primary heating source must be heat pump or electric. Qualifying windows must be a minimum of 8 square feet. Window must be Energy Star rated. (U-factor of .35 or less) Maximum of \$150 rebate per member.
_____ x \$15 per opening = TOTAL WINDOW REBATE REQUEST \$ _____

TOTAL APPLIANCE REBATE REQUEST \$ _____
TOTAL WATER HEATING REBATE REQUEST \$ _____
TOTAL LIGHTING REBATE REQUEST \$ _____
TOTAL WINDOW REBATE REQUEST \$ _____



PLANNING TO PURCHASE AN ELECTRIC OR HYBRID VEHICLE?

IF YOU OWN OR ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MARKET FOR AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE OR HYBRID THAT NEEDS TO BE PLUGGED IN, PLEASE CONTACT US! THERE MAY BE SPECIAL RATES AND REBATES AVAILABLE WHEN INSTALLING A LEVEL 2 CHARGER AT YOUR HOME!

Coop Kitchen

Members with their recipe published in the newsletter will receive a \$5 bill credit. For March's recipes send in your favorite casserole recipe! These can be mailed to our office or emailed to us at energy@heartlandpower.com by February 20th.

GRANDMA'S BAKED CHICKEN

SYLVIA SAUDER – CHARLES CITY

Ingredients:

- *Skinless Chicken Breast*
- *2 Cups Flour*
- *2 Cups Crushed Saltine Crackers*
- *2 Tbs Salt*
- *1 ½ Tbs Paprika*
- *1 Tsp Parsley*
- *1 Tsp Garlic Salt*
- *1 Tsp Onion Salt*
- *1 Tbs Sugar*
- *1/8 Cup Vegetable Oil*



Instructions:

Mix all ingredients except chicken thoroughly. Cut chicken into medium-sized pieces. Dip Chicken in a bowl of milk or water then roll in coating mixture. Place on cookie sheet or roast pan and drizzle a generous amount of melted butter over chicken. Bake in oven at 350° until done. (Time will vary according to your size of chicken pieces. Can also use skinless chicken legs.) If there's extra coating mixture left, store in freezer for another time.

WE SELL GENERATORS!

While we do our best to keep the lights on, consider purchasing a standby generator to keep the lights on, even when Mother nature has other plans.

BENEFITS OF INSTALLING A STANDBY GENERATOR

- Instant power generation
- Keeps the important appliances running
- Your plumbing is protected
- Protects your electronics
- Peace of mind knowing you will always have power!



YOU. POWERED.

If a standby generator is the next step in protecting your home or business, give us a call! We sell Briggs & Stratton generators and are glad to help guide you through proper sizing and a safe interconnection with the electrical grid.



Providing members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity and enhancing the quality of life for members and their local communities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-Th
Office: 641.584.2251
Toll Free: 800.349.2832

Thompson 216 Jackson St. | P.O. Box 65
Thompson, IA 50478

St. Ansgar 110 Industrial Park Dr. | P.O. Box 70
St. Ansgar, IA 50472

Outage Reporting Thompson: 641.584.2200
St. Ansgar: 641.713.4646
System Wide: 888.417.3007

Secure Payment Phone Line 833.890.4830
Digging & Line Location Call 811

Website www.heartlandpower.com
Email energy@heartlandpower.com
Facebook facebook.com/heartlandpower
Twitter twitter.com/heartland_power
Instagram instagram.com/heartland_power

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER Jon Leerar

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Knudtson, *President* 641.590.1416
Mark Kingland, *Vice-President & DPC Director* 641.590.4400
Vince Morische, *Secretary* 641.220.4841
Tricia Jaeger, *Treasurer* 641.330.6903
Michael Cole
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer 641.512.1474
Roger Solomonson, *Director* 641.590.0049
Steve Groth, *Director* 641.590.2581

Holiday & Office Hours

Heartland Power Cooperative offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th, Wednesday, December 25th, and Wednesday, January 1st. Regular office hours are Monday - Thursday 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Give the gift of renewable energy
Ask about community solar subscriptions!

Heartland Power Community Solar

Enjoy the value of renewable electricity without worrying about maintaining equipment, insurance concerns, or installation on your property.

Visit heartlandpower.com/community-solar or scan the QR code to learn more.

FROM ALL OF US AT HEARTLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

EMPLOYEES

Randy Dieterich, Dave Fox, Justin Gasteiger, Casey Hanson, Jenny Kramersmeier, Jordan Lee, Jon Leerar, Dave Low, Vickie Maakestad, Gabe Mayer, Jay Muller, Tim Oldenkamp, Alex Ollendieck, Sheila Olsen, Kevin Pannhoff, Pete Paulson, Brad Pecinovsky, Karrie Pringnitz, Jackson Rice, Eric Rosenbaum, Colton Skarpohl-Ost, Jarrett Woods

DIRECTORS

Michael Cole, Steve Groth, Tricia Jaeger, Mark Kingland, Don Knudtson, Vince Morische, Roger Solomonson

Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR