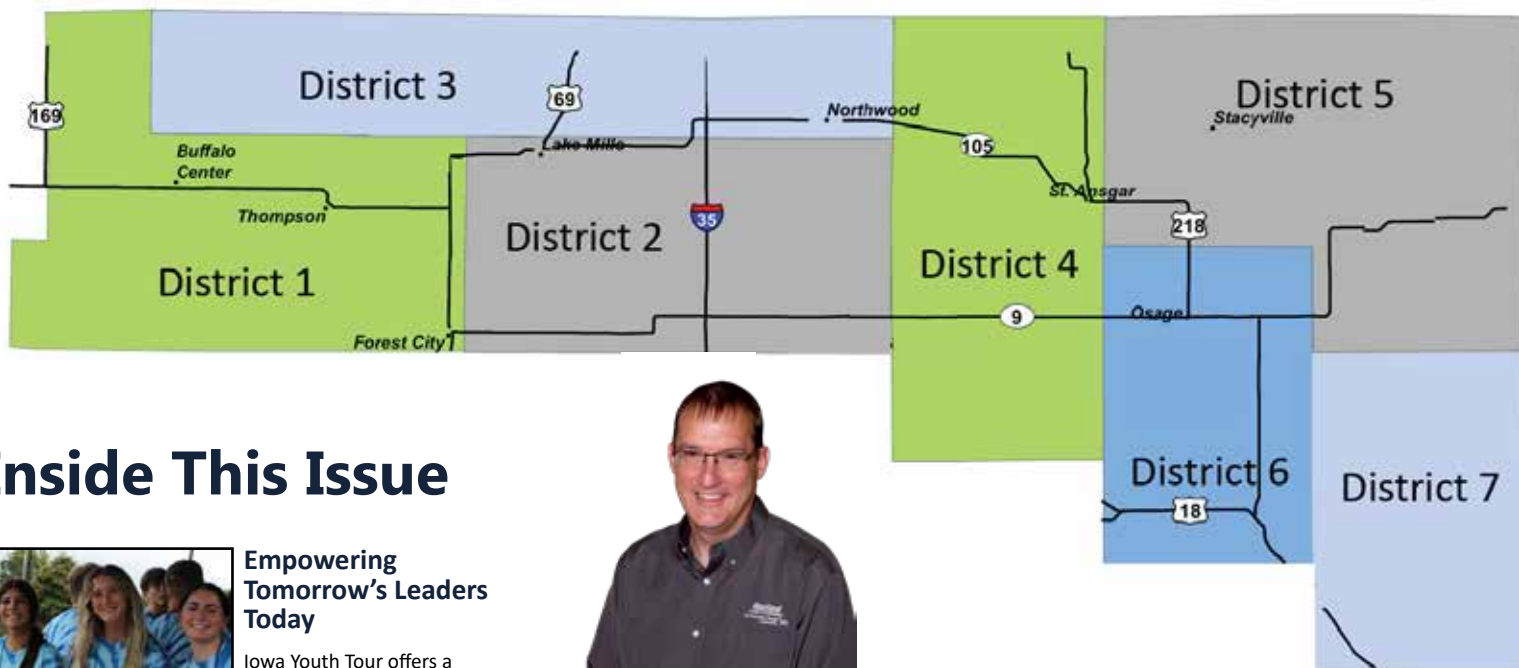


Member-Focused, Member-Governed Consider Running for the Board of Directors



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Jon Leerar
CEO/General Manager

Districts 1 and 7 are up for Election in 2026

Heartland Power Cooperative is member-owned and governed by a board of directors elected by you, the members. Two Board of Director positions will be up for election in 2026: District 1 (currently represented by Roger Solomonson) and District 7 (currently represented by Tricia Jaeger).

The Nominating Committee has begun seeking candidates from these districts to run for the Board. To be considered, candidates must be Heartland Power members listed on the membership card. If only one name is listed, a joint membership can be added.

Candidates must also live at and receive electric service from the cooperative at a location within the district they wish to represent.

The Board typically meets once a month during the day, rotating between the St. Ansgar and Thompson offices. Additional meetings or trainings generally total about one day per month. Candidates are selected by a Nominating Committee made up of members from the districts up for election.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact our office at 641-584-2251.



Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Iowa Youth Tour Offers Local Students a Chance to Make Their Mark

Every generation leaves behind a legacy, footprints that shape the future. Iowa Youth Tour is your chance to do the same. For over 60 years, electric cooperatives have sent high school students to Washington, D.C., to discover their voice, step into history and begin writing the story only they can tell.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience isn't just about seeing the nation's capital. It's about preparing students to lead, to grow and to make their mark on the world.

What's in it for students?

Delegates from Iowa will join over 1,800 students from across the country in Washington, D.C., June 14-20. During the trip, students will:

- Develop leadership skills through hands-on experiences and workshops
- Strengthen their resumes with a nationally recognized program that stands out to colleges and employers
- Connect with peers from 44 states, building friendships that last long after the trip
- Meet with elected officials and learn how government impacts their communities
- Experience history up close by visiting world-class museums and monuments
- Learn about cooperatives and how they support rural communities across America

The best part? All expenses—travel, lodging, meals, and program costs—are covered by Heartland Power Cooperative. The program is coordinated by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Don't Let This Opportunity Pass By

Applications for Youth Tour will be open until March 2, 2026. If you know a high school student who is ready to grow as a leader and take the next step in their journey, encourage them to apply today.

For details, visit heartlandpower.com/youthtour. This is more than a trip, it's a chance to make your mark.



Myles Tjaden

Charles City, IA
Charles City High School

OUR 2025 YOUTH TOUR REPRESENTATIVES

This Could Be You

From Charles City to Buffalo Center and everywhere in between, we've had Youth Tour representatives from school districts and communities all across our service territory. You could be next! Apply and be part of the legacy.



Ava Meinders

Buffalo Center, IA
North Iowa Community Schools

Apply Now: \$1,000 Scholarships Available for Local Students

Deadline for all scholarship applications: February 6, 2026

Heartland Power Cooperative is pleased to once again provide ten (10) \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are Heartland Power members with their primary residence served by Heartland Power.

Applications can be found at www.heartlandpower.com/scholarships or visit with your high school guidance counselor.

Heartland Power is proud to support local students with multiple \$1,000 scholarship opportunities. Apply today and take the next step toward your future.

Heartland Power Cooperative also offers a one-time \$1,000 scholarship for students enrolled in a Power Line Program and who resides within the communities of Heartland Power Cooperative's service area. Parents or guardians do not have to be members to be eligible to apply for the Power Line Program Scholarship.

Applications can also be found at the website listed above. If you have questions, please contact us at 641-584-2251 or email energy@heartlandpower.com. Scholarship applications are due February 6, 2026.



New Facility Sees Progress in Thompson

Progress continues at our new Heartland Power facility in Thompson. Earlier this year, the HPC Board of Directors approved construction of a new shop and office for the cooperative, located at our pole yard along Highway 9.

As we look ahead to the completion and eventual move into the new facility, we're excited for how this expanded space will enhance our ability to serve you and better support the cooperative's needs well into the future.

We'll continue to continue to share progress and updates along the way. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns We're honored to serve as your trusted local energy provider.



Taking Shape

This view, taken eastbound on Highway 9 in Thompson, shows ongoing progress on the new Heartland Power facility.



OPERATION ROUND-UP

HOW **YOUR CHANGE HAS CHANGED LIVES** THIS YEAR



\$5,000
MEDICAL/ACCIDENTS



\$6,000
LOCAL FIRE



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



\$900
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

\$14,300 GIVEN BACK TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES THIS YEAR!

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF OPERATION ROUND-UP IN 2003, WE HAVE DONATED OVER \$444,560 TOGETHER!

New Accountant Joins The Cooperative

Welcome Cheinette Van Wyk to HPC!

Heartland Power Cooperative is pleased to welcome Cheinette Van Wyk as our new Accountant. Cheinette brings more than 25 years of experience working with electric cooperatives, along with a master's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa.

An Iowa native, Cheinette is excited to join the HPC team and return closer to her children and grandchildren. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, baking, and gardening.

We're happy to have her on board! Join us in welcoming Cheinette!

Cheinette Van Wyk

Heartland Power Cooperative
Accountant



Winter Preparedness

Tips to Prepare Before a Winter Storm or Power Outage



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.



Keep Your Devices Charged:

Keep devices charged to stay connected and informed.



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

We sell standby generators.

If a stand by 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 safe interconnection to the electric grid.

Winter Preparedness For Your Home



Dave Low
Director of Operations

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 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

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

Upgrades Coming to Our Load Control Program

Enhancing Efficiency and Reliability for All Members

We are excited to announce an important update to our Load Control Program that promises to enhance efficiency and reliability for all our members. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing you with the best service possible, we will be upgrading our load control devices across our service area.

Why the Change?

The new load control devices are at the forefront of energy management technology. They offer numerous benefits, including:

- **Improved Efficiency:** The upgraded devices are designed to optimize energy use, helping to reduce peak demand and manage energy distribution more effectively.
- **Enhanced Reliability:** With advanced technology, these devices ensure a more stable and consistent response during load control periods.
- **User-Friendly Features:** The new controls are easier to monitor and manage, providing you with more control over your energy usage.

What to Expect

As we roll out these new devices, you may notice cooperative employees working in your area to replace the existing load control units. Our team is dedicated to making this transition as seamless as possible, with minimal disruption to your daily routine.

Your Safety is Our Priority

We understand the importance of security and peace of mind. If you ever have any doubts about whether the person working on your load control device is authorized by the cooperative, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 641-584-2251. Our team will be more than happy to verify the identity of our employees and ensure your safety.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work to improve our services. We are excited about the positive impact these new load control devices will have on our community and look forward to serving you better.

COZY COMFORT FOOD

Breadsticks

Recipe submitted by Janelle Reiff of Elma

For The Breadsticks:

- 1 ½ cup warm water
- 1 T. yeast
- 1 T. vegetable oil
- 1 T. sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp. salt
- 4 cup flour

For The Butter Mixture:

- ½ cup butter, melted
- 3 T. olive oil
- 3 T. parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. garlic
- 2 T. dried parsley



Dissolve yeast in water. Add oil, sugar, and salt. Stir in flour until it is too stiff to stir with a spoon. Place on a floured surface and knead several minutes. Put into lightly greased bowl. Let rise until double-about 1 hour. Punch down and press into a jelly roll pan. Spread butter mixture on top and bake at 350° for 15-18 minutes or until golden brown. Cut in slices and dip into hot pizza or cheese sauce.

Want to see your recipe featured in our Co-op Kitchen?

Members with their recipe published in the newsletter will receive a \$5 bill credit. For March's recipes send in a favorite no-bake treat! These can be mailed to our office or emailed to us at energy@heartlandpower.com by February 20th.

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.



FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING...

Give the gift of renewable energy

Heartland Power Community Solar Subscriptions

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.



LEARN MORE





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



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

MONTHLY QUIZ

\$25 BILL CREDIT WINNER

Dan and Rene Retterath, Elma

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

Do you know someone who might be interested in the Board, Youth Tour, or scholarships? (No need to tell us who, just let us know if the answer is yes!)

QUIZ GUIDELINES

Each member who sends in the correct answer by the 20th of the month will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit. Mail or email quiz answers to energy@heartlandpower.com.

Holiday & Office Hours

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

Facility Charge Increase Effective January 1

The Heartland Power Cooperative Board of Directors recently approved an increase in facility charges for rural residential, farm, and small commercial rate classes. The decision was based on a thorough cost-of-service study conducted by the cooperative's rate consultant.

The new facility charges will take effect on January 1, 2026. For rural residential, farm, and small commercial members, the facility charge will rise by \$3. Specifically, single-phase charges will increase from \$47 to \$50, while three-phase charges will go from \$67 to \$70.



Learn more about the facility charge and this upcoming increase in our October newsletter, available at www.heartlandpower.com/newsletter.

Merry Christmas

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, 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, Cheinette Van Wyk, Jarrett Woods

DIRECTORS

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