



## Upcoming Board Election To Include Article Change Vote

At this year's annual meeting, Linn County REC members will be voting on one change to one article of incorporation in addition to electing two board members.

The proposed change is to Article IX; Directors; Section 3. The board has recommended a wording change in order to clarify eligibility.

The proposed amendment will be placed on this year's ballot. **Please note that a member voting for directors, but not voting on the Article change counts as a NO vote for the Article change.** If you have any questions regarding this vote, please contact Robin Pospisil at 319-377-1587 or toll free 1-800-332-5420. The proposed Article change as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION Of Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative Association

To be consistent with Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative policy, the following amendment is recommended by the Board of Directors. The provision below is as it currently reads with suggested portion deleted with a line striking through it and with suggested additional portion underlined:

#### ARTICLE IX. Section 3. Qualifications.

For purposes of nominating, electing and filling vacancies to the board of directors, and to be eligible to remain a director, the following eligibility requirements shall apply: the individual (1) must be a bona fide resident of the district for which he or she is nominated, (2) must hold membership in the Cooperative for at least one year, (3) must be receiving electric service from the Cooperative at the location where he or she resides, (4) must not be ~~in any way~~ employed by or ~~extensively~~ financially interested in a ~~competing enterprise or~~ business that selling electric energy or electrical supplies to the Cooperative or its affiliates or supplies for "an electric production facility,"

as defined by 199IAC15.1, to Cooperative members, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative; and (5) in the case of a joint membership, either one but not both may serve as director at any given time, and both joint members must meet all of the other qualifications set forth herein (6) must not be so closely related to any Cooperative employee so as to violate the Cooperative's Employment of Relatives Policy EP-11, (7) must not be a current or former employee of the Cooperative, (8) shall not be a convicted felon and (9) shall only campaign through the Cooperative's publications and website candidate biography. Notwithstanding these eligibility requirements, nothing in this section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

**As the provision would read after the Board recommended amendment is approved by the membership:**

**Section 3. Qualifications.** For purposes of nominating, electing and filling vacancies to the board of directors, and to be eligible to remain a director, the following eligibility requirements shall apply: the individual (1) must be a bona fide resident of the district for which he or she is nominated, (2) must hold membership in the Cooperative for at least one year, (3) must be receiving electric service from the Cooperative at the location where he or she resides, (4) must not be employed by or financially interested in a business that sells electric energy or electrical supplies to the Cooperative or its affiliates or supplies for "an electric production facility," as defined by 199IAC15, to Cooperative members, and (5) in the case of a joint membership, either one but not both may serve as director at any given time, and both joint members must meet all of the other qualifications



### VIRTUAL Annual Meeting Friday, September 24

As we continue to navigate the changing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the board of directors has made the decision to hold the annual meeting virtually again this year.

The safety of our members and employees has been our top priority during the pandemic. A virtual annual meeting will allow us to fulfill our bylaw requirements and connect with you while adhering to safety recommendations.

Members will be able to vote for directors and the Article change through SmartHub, online and by mail. Details to follow in the August newsletter.

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## Tree Trimming Improves Service For All

The goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three ways.

### Safety

We put safety above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during storms that make it more dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

### Reliability

One of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming keep lines clear and reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages.

### Affordability

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

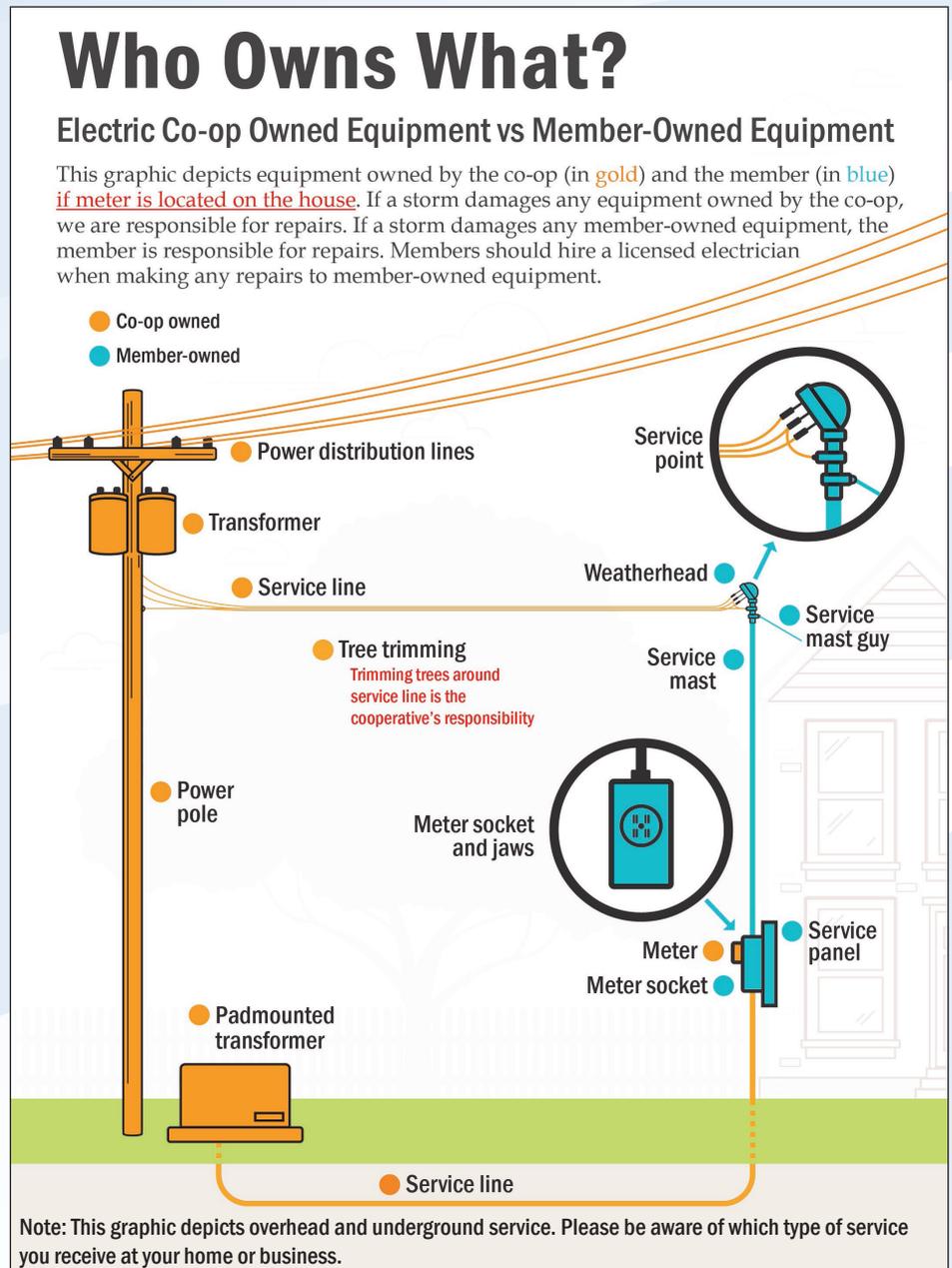
Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

## Service Equipment Ownership - Who Owns What

In the event a storm damages electrical equipment on your property, you may have questions about which parts of the service are yours and which parts Linn County REC owns/maintains.

If a storm damages any equipment owned by Linn County REC, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

Use the guide below to help you determine who typically owns what equipment. **If your meter is located on a pole or pedestal, visit our website for a diagram that depicts equipment owned by the cooperative and member.**



# Be Prepared: Before, During and After The Storm

During this time of year, severe weather can happen quickly. In the event of a power outage, contact Linn County REC. Every call helps determine the location and extent of an outage and helps prioritize restoration efforts. Follow these tips to stay safe before, during and after a storm:

## Before the storm

- Keep emergency phone numbers, including Linn County REC's, available and always have a corded or cellular phone in your home.
- Keep a battery operated flashlight, radio, clock and extra batteries on hand.
- Know where your main breaker disconnect is.
- Unplug sensitive electrical equipment.

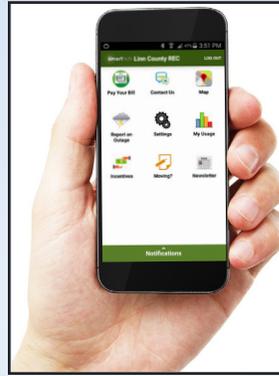
## During the storm

Report your outage to us by:

- **Phone:** Call toll free **1-888-271-6250**. This number is for outages only. Calls answered 24 hours a day.
- **SmartHub App:** Download the FREE mobile app in the App Store or Play Store.
- **Text:** Enroll on our website. Once enrolled, text "outage" to 55050 on your cell phone. We must have your cell phone number on file for this option.
- Unplug as many appliances as possible. This will prevent damage from a power surge that may occur during power restoration.
- If outside, don't touch or drive over a power line. Always assume a downed line is energized.

## After the storm

- If you have unplugged appliances, plug them back in one at a time once power has been restored.
- If you see a downed line or damaged utility equipment, contact us immediately. Make sure to keep people away. Always assume a downed line is dangerous, even if it's not jumping or sparking.
- Do not attempt to assist utility crews. What may seem like help can actually hamper restoration and safety efforts.



## Report An Outage From Your Phone

Did you know that you can report an outage from your mobile device with our SmartHub app? You can also check to see if your home or business is affected by an outage.

Download for free in the App Store or Play Store.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see**. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

### DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

### OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

**NEVER GO NEAR** downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment **do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized**.



# 2021 Scholarship Winners

As a part of our continuing commitment to the communities we serve, Linn County REC recently awarded college scholarships to the following high school seniors:

**Amanda Grimm**, Swisher, will attend Luther College.

**Sadie Rummel**, Solon, will attend UNI.

**Abby Kaska**, Solon, will attend ISU.

**Camille Mac**, North Liberty, will attend the U of I.

**Savannah Sexton**, West Branch, will attend Central College.

**Tyler Schmitz**, Cedar Rapids, will attend ISU.

**April Rieff**, Fairfax, will attend Kirkwood.

**Margaret Opfer**, Central City, will attend Kirkwood.

**Jesse Pealer**, Solon, will attend Northwest Iowa Community College in the Powerline Program.

## Easy Sweet and Sour Meatballs



- 1 package (12 oz) frozen fully cooked homestyle or Swedish meatballs, thawed
- 1 can (20 oz) unsweetened pineapple chunks
- 1 green pepper, cut into 1" pieces
- 3 tbsps cornstarch                      1/3 cup cold water
- 3 tbsps cider vinegar                    1 tsp soy sauce
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- Hot cooked rice, optional
- Thinly sliced green onions, optional

Drain pineapple, reserving juice. Set pineapple aside. Add enough water to juice if needed to measure 1 cup. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the meatballs, green pepper and juice mixture until heated through. In a small bowl, combine the cornstarch, cold water, vinegar and soy sauce until smooth. Add brown sugar and reserved pineapple to the pan; stir in cornstarch mixture. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. If desired, serve with rice and top with green onions.      **SERVINGS: 6**



# MAY

is Electrical Safety Month

To stay safe around electricity, start with these SEVEN basic tips:



### Don't overload outlets or circuits

Plugging in too many items or drawing too much power on a circuit can cause overheating, fire, and damage to devices.



### Don't use faulty electrical cords or plugs

Do not use cords that look frayed, worn or cracked. Do not use broken plugs. Never remove the grounding pin from a three-pronged plug.



### Have your electrician's number in your phone

Most electrical repairs or installations are not DIY projects. Hire an expert to avoid serious injury or wiring problems.



### Be careful around H2O

Never use electricity while standing in damp or wet conditions. Keep all electrical devices away from water, including cell phones that are charging.



### Evaluate your appliances

Do not use appliances in disrepair. Older or broken appliances can overheat, start a fire, and cause serious injuries.



### Test your GFCIs

Outlets near a water source should be equipped with GFCIs, which help prevent shock and electrocution caused by ground faults. Test monthly to make sure they are working.



### Make sure your home is up to code

Your home should be properly wired and electrically sound. Contact a reputable electrician to evaluate your home.



## Office Closed

Linn County REC offices will be closed on May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

Bill payment kiosks are available 24 hours a day at our Marion office and North Liberty operations center.



LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

WWW.LINNCOUNTYREC.COM

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