



Power Up!

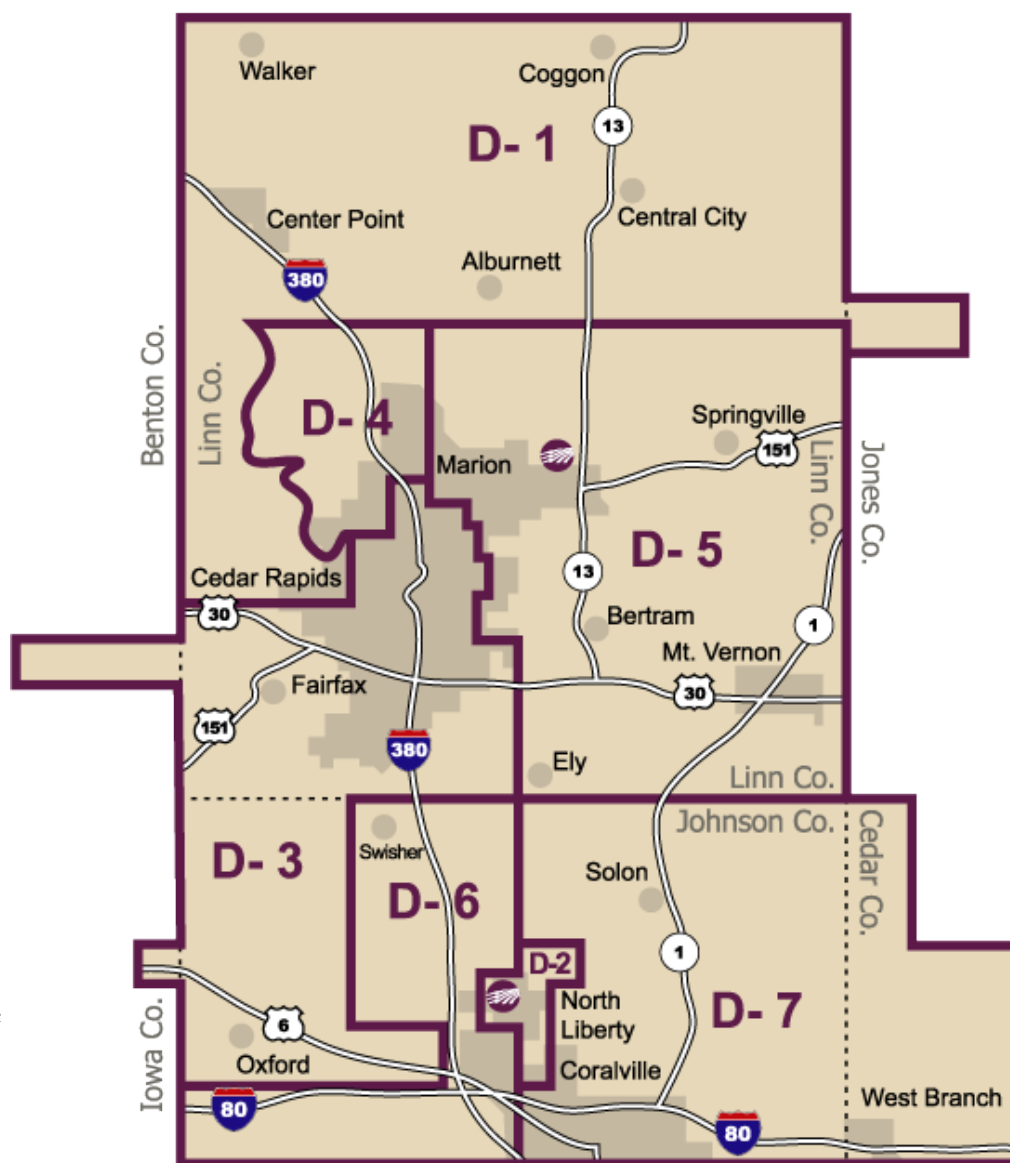
Seeking Candidates For Nominating Committee Members From Each Voting District Needed

Linn County REC is a member owned electric cooperative governed by a board of directors that you elect. As a member, one of your most important roles is to participate in the nomination and election of your directors. Get involved in your cooperative's operation by serving on the nominating committee.

The Linn County REC board of directors is looking for seven individuals, one from each voting district, to represent their district on the nominating committee. Districts 4 and 6 are up for election this year. The representatives from these two districts are responsible for finding members to run for election.

Nominating committee members meet one time in June at the REC headquarters in Marion for a dinner meeting. At the meeting, the committee member from districts 4 and 6 present the names of individuals who wish to run for the board of directors. The full committee reviews and approves the slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot for this year's election. The dinner meeting usually lasts about two hours. Members who have never served on the nominating committee are preferred.

If you are interested in representing your district on the nominating committee or live in district 4 or 6 and wish to run for director, please contact Jennifer at 377-1587 or toll free in Iowa at 1-800-332-5420.



Mark Your Calendars

The Linn County REC 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 21 at the Chauffeurs, Teamsters and Helpers #238 Union Building in Cedar Rapids.



Convenient Ways To Pay Your Bill



Direct Pay (automatic bank withdrawal): Have your electric bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

Quick Pay (credit or debit card): Pay your bill over the phone with a credit card, debit card or your checking account. Service fee applies.

PAY MY BILL (online): Pay your bill on our website with a credit card, debit card or from your checking account. Service fee applies.

Walmart: Pay your bill at any Walmart location across the country. Bring your bill stub and cash or debit card to make a payment. Standard 3 business day delivery option is \$0.88.

RECare: Help Members In Need

RECare is a crisis fund available for our low income members to help pay their electric bills and to weatherize their homes. When you give to RECare, your donation goes directly to families in need throughout our community. All funds are distributed by a local community action agency, there are no administrative costs and donations are tax deductible.

Contribute to RECare by filling out the authorization form on our website at www.linncountyrec.com or by contacting our office to request a form.



The amount you pledge will be included with the monthly net amount on your Linn County REC bill. You may discontinue your pledge at any time by contacting our office at 377-1587 or toll free in Iowa at 1-800-332-5420.

Scholarship Winners Reflect On College Experience

Thank you for supporting my college education. I am grateful for this scholarship and motivated to give back to others what you have generously given to me. I am currently pursuing a major in Industrial Engineering and minors in Global Health and Business at the University of Iowa. With the help of this scholarship, I am studying in India this winter to develop sustainable energy solar cookers for rural villages in Rajasthan. In addition to my coursework, I serve as an officer for the Society of Women Engineers, volunteer at the Hope Lodge and compete with the TriHawk Triathlon team. From these experiences, I have learned that every day is an opportunity to discover the world and in the process, myself as well. Thank you for seeing the value in supporting young people eager to inspire and be inspired. Best wishes in the new year. God Bless.



Allison Kindig, University of Iowa

When I first arrived at Iowa I was a little anxious. But classes started up a couple of days after I moved in and everyone began to get into the swing of things. The only major change is that you are in charge of yourself and the decisions you make. The classes make you work hard and force you to quickly discover your study habits. I have made many good friends and joined student organizations like Dance Marathon. Thank you Linn County REC for helping me make these great memories!



Taylor Van Scoyoc, University of Iowa

Life at the University of Iowa has been exciting for me. I've been busy with many things outside of school, as well as with the academic challenges of college. I have joined the University of Iowa Wishmakers and Colleges Against Cancer. Also, I volunteer at the VA Hospital in Iowa City and work in a research lab on campus. It's been eventful, and I would like to thank the Linn County REC for allowing me to focus more on my college experience and less on my finances.



Taylor Steckler, University of Iowa

I would like to thank Linn County REC for the scholarship they provided me. School is going great and I enjoy the powerline program very much. I have been working hard and keeping my grades up. I truly appreciate the support you have given me. I look forward to continuing school and graduating this summer.

Lincoln Schrock, Northwest Iowa Community College

Scholarship Winners Cont'...

My first semester at Northwest Iowa Community College has been a great experience. I am currently enrolled in the Power Line Program and have enjoyed everything I have learned in my first semester. My instructors have been great. I want to thank the Linn County REC for the scholarship that was given to me. It has greatly helped with my college finances. I am looking forward to starting a career in the power line field when I graduate in July.



Daniel Baudler, Northwest Iowa Community College

I am awestruck by my first semester at Iowa State University! It has been a life-changing experience adapting to a new environment, developing regular study skills and meeting new people. While taking chemistry, calculus and engineering courses during the fall semester, I participated in Women in Science and Engineering, Freshman Leaders in Engineering, Basketball Pep Band, and the Cyclone Marching Band. I am looking forward to the challenges of a new semester. Thank you Linn County REC for this wonderful opportunity and your continued support!



Carlyn Hill, Iowa State University

My first semester at Kirkwood has been more than I ever could have imagined. The faculty and staff have been wonderful for this new experience. I am enrolled in the Industrial Maintenance Program and feel I have made the perfect choice. I really look forward to this next semester and each to come after that. I would like to thank Linn County REC for their generous scholarship.



Jared Donaldson, Kirkwood Community College

My first semester at Iowa State was a lot of fun. We learned all sorts of things about circuitry and the way electricity likes to act. We experimented with a new Arduino board which is an open source code programmable circuit board with add-ons like wi-fi, a waterproofing kit, etc. I also enjoyed some of the student activities available at ISU. I traveled with the trap and skeet team to shoot clay targets all over the Midwest. I am continuing with electrical engineering studies next semester, and hope I will be able to study capacitance. I'm really looking forward to it!



Tom Henry, Iowa State University

March 1st Deadline Reminder:



All Linn County REC scholarships for the 2012 - 2013 school year must be **postmarked by March 1, 2012**. Go to our website to fill out or download applications with our rules/instructions.

My first semester at Carnegie Mellon University was an amazing experience. This school proved far more difficult than the colleges at which I took classes in high school, and for some time I was not sure if I would be able to continue to maintain my high standards of academic performance which had been established during two years dual enrolled at Coe College. However, I worked harder than ever before, and came into finals very over prepared. I did maintain my standards, and look forward to continuing to do so for the next seven semesters. None of this would have been possible without the significant scholarship support which I received, and in particular I should like to thank the Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative Scholarship Committee for selecting me as one of their scholarship recipients. This semester I learned that not only do scholarships help make it possible to attend school; they also provide a very strong motivation for doing well once there.



Luke Serafin, Carnegie Mellon University

I'm a student attending the Culinary Arts Program at Kirkwood and I love it! I have made new friends and have learned a lot of new techniques in cooking. I enjoy going to labs every day and making something new and exciting. My favorite experience was watching a guest chef from Canada make us different food dishes. I cannot wait to learn more techniques and become an amazing chef.



Kara Culjat, Kirkwood Community College

After my first semester at Kirkwood, I would like to thank Linn County REC for their generous support in my pursuit of a degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology. I have worked hard and learned so much during this past semester. The skills I will gain coming out of this program will ensure that I have a solid base of knowledge to build a career from. With hard work and dedication, I will strive to achieve a high level of success using the skills that I will gain through completing my degree.



Eric Fritz, Kirkwood Community College



Efficient Ways To Lower Heating Costs



• Use your thermostat effectively. Turn the thermostat down when you are away from home or sleeping. Keep it at the lowest comfortable level when you are at home. You can save about 3% on your heating bill for every degree that you set back your thermostat. Consider buying a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature.

- Clean your furnace filter monthly. Dirt and neglect are the top two causes of system failure. Consider replacing your furnace if it is more than 30 years old. Furnaces that old are usually 50% less efficient.
- Use sunlight's natural heat to your best advantage. Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sunlight warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold air out.
- Make sure your house is well insulated. Add additional attic insulation if necessary. Upgrading from 3" to 12" can cut heating costs by 20%.
- Turn down the water heater. Lowering the temperature of water in the water heater to 120 degrees reduces power use often without a noticeable difference.

For more energy saving tips, visit www.linncountyrec.com.

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Conversation Cupcakes

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| 1 package white cake mix | 4 cups confectioners' sugar |
| 1/2 cup butter, softened | 1/2 cup shortening |
| 1/8 tsp butter flavoring, optional | 1 tsp vanilla extract |
| 2 tablespoons milk | |
| 1 to 2 drops red food coloring, optional | |
| 1 to 2 drops yellow food coloring, optional | |
| 1 to 2 drops blue food coloring, optional | |

Prepare cake mix batter according to package directions for cupcakes. Place paper or foil liners in a heart-shaped or standard muffin tin. Fill cups half full of batter. Bake according to package directions for cupcakes. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely. For frosting, in a large bowl, combine the confectioners' sugar, butter, shortening, vanilla, butter flavoring if desired and milk until smooth. Divide frosting into fourths if desired; place in four separate bowls. Leave one bowl untinted. Add one color of food coloring to each of the other three bowls; stir until well blended. Frost cupcakes. Pipe untinted frosting around edges and decorate tops with Valentine phrases.

Yield: 28 cupcakes

Why My Co-op Matters

The International Year of Cooperatives' theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates with co-ops in the electric, banking, food, retail, housing, and marketing arenas.



"We're surrounded by a diverse mix of cooperatives," states Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives and public power districts. "No matter what kind of co-op you belong to, two things are clear: we put people first, and we are innovators. By getting neighbors and communities to work together, co-op members build a better world."

What are Co-ops?

Cooperatives are a global network of independent, local businesses owned by those they serve.

"We share a common set of business principles and values like self-help and democracy," explains English. "Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members."

According to the Washington, D.C.-based National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), more than 29,200 cooperatives nationally employ 2 million Americans. One in every four Americans is a co-op member, but the scope of the cooperative network doesn't stop at the border.

"Co-ops are a major economic force in industrialized countries and provide a powerful business model for developing nations," notes Paul Hazen, NCBA president & CEO.

More than 1 billion co-op members exist worldwide, and co-ops generate 100 million jobs globally. Cooperatives strive for sustainable development of communities through member-driven policies, with co-op leaders elected by members.

"As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. That keeps the co-op's focus on you and how best to meet your needs," notes English.

