



Linn County
Rural Electric
Cooperative

ElectricConnection

A monthly publication for our members



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FEBRUARY 2025



Help Shape Our Future, Serve On The Nominating Committee

Linn County REC is seeking members to serve on the nominating committee and qualified candidates to run for board positions in the 2025 election.

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 1 and 5 are up for election this year. Representatives from these two districts are responsible for finding members to run for election. However, the cooperative will also provide names it receives from members interested in running for the Board to committee members.

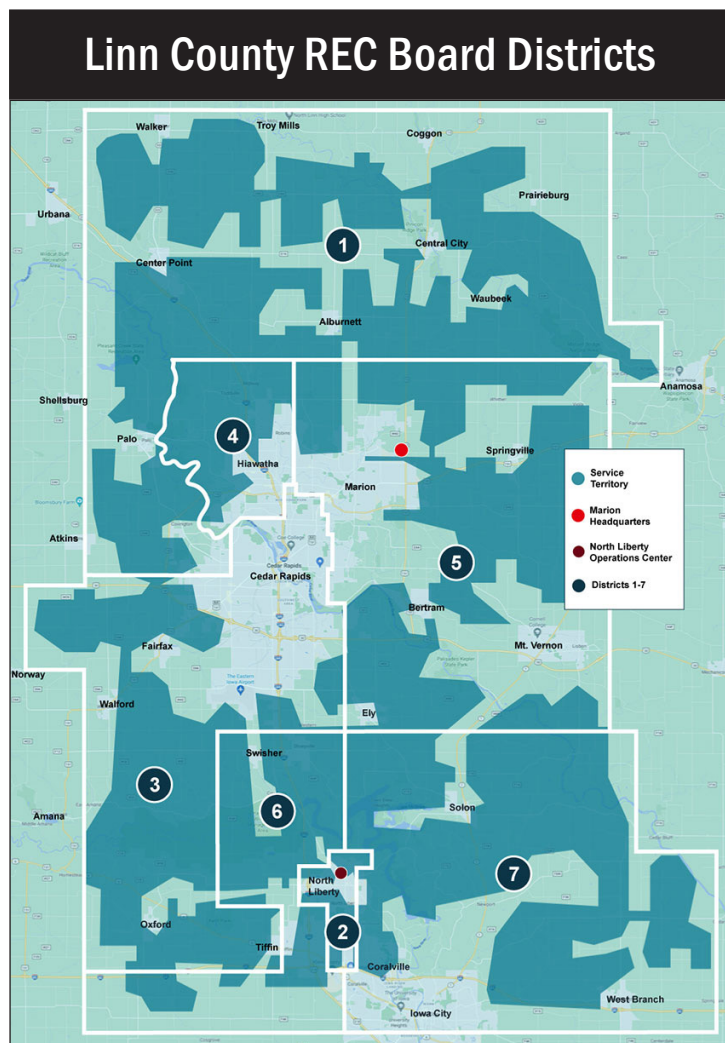
Nominating committee members meet once in June at our headquarters in Marion for a dinner meeting. During the meeting, district 1 and 5 members present candidates to be included on the election ballot. The meeting usually lasts about two hours. Members who have never served are preferred.

Director Elections

Our Board of Directors is a democratically elected body nominated by its members and voted into position by members participating in the cooperative's election every September. Their primary duties are establishing rules, regulations, and policies that guide the cooperative's operations. In addition, they represent their members' best interests when making important decisions.

We encourage all members who are passionate about our cooperative and wish to contribute to its growth and governance to consider running for a position on the Board. Detailed information regarding director qualifications, specific responsibilities, and the expected time commitment can be found on our website.

If you are interested in representing your district on the nominating committee or reside in districts 1 or 5 and wish to run for a director position, please contact Robin at 319-377-1587. Your participation can help shape the future of our cooperative!



Understanding Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

February is typically the coldest month, leading to increased energy bills as heating systems work harder to keep us warm.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices and a few ways you can meaningfully impact home energy savings. Your monthly bill summarizes your electrical use during the billing cycle. If you have our Smarthub app, you can see how electricity use may have spiked when you used more, such as on a particularly chilly day.

In addition to your consumption, external factors also affect the cost of electricity.

Fuel Prices

We purchase electricity from our power provider, CIPCO, at wholesale cost and then deliver that power to our local communities. Power costs account for 54% of the cost of providing electric service to your homes and businesses, with the majority of this cost occurring during our on-peak hours (4:01 pm -10 pm). The cost of fuels used to generate that electricity (natural gas and coal) fluctuates based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with CIPCO to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

Extreme Weather

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for extreme cold or heat when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

Infrastructure and Equipment

You pay a monthly facility charge to cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor, and daily operations is covered for all members in our service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations, and other essential equipment.

Energy Policy and Regulations

Federal energy policies and regulations can profoundly impact electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to more intermittent renewable sources and stricter emission regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and

EFFECTIVE WAYS To Lower Home Energy Use

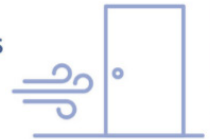
UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE

Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.



ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Move laundry loads to off-peak hours. Run the dishwasher right before bed, or use the delay cycle.



MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods.



technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

You Have Control

While many of these external factors are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. One effective way is thermostat management. Each degree the thermostat is adjusted can save 1%–3%. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy use by using our time-of-day rates. Reserve chores like running the dishwasher or clothes dryer during our super saver time (10:00 pm–5 am) at \$.05 per kWh or off-peak times (5:01 am–4:00 pm) at \$.1145 per kWh. Utilize UL-listed smart plugs to better control the usage of 120-volt devices or UL-listed smart timers for 240-volt devices. Reducing on-peak usage can help both individual members and the membership as a whole reduce costs.

Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors, and other gaps where possible. This will help your system work less and improve your home's overall comfort.

To learn about our efficiency programs to help you save, visit www.linncountyrec.com.



Scholarship Winners Reflect On Their First Semester

One of the ways Linn County REC is committed to the communities we serve is through our college scholarship program. These students received scholarships last year, and below are reflections on their first semester. We wish them continued success as they complete their first year.

The application period is now open for our 2025 - 2026 scholarship program. Do you have a high school senior

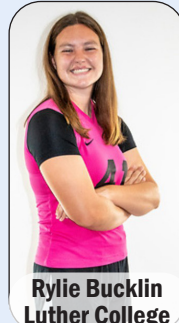
who will graduate this May? Linn County REC is offering multiple scholarships specifically for high school seniors planning to attend a college, university, or vocational/technical school in Iowa this fall (2025). You can find the scholarship application and the rules and instructions online at www.linncountyrec.com. **The application deadline is March 3, 2025.**

"I am attending NW Iowa Community College for Powerline Technology. It's been a great experience, I enjoy the hands-on field training and applying the skills I've learned in the classroom. I'm confident I am on the right career path and I look forward to learning all I can to prepare me for my future."



Carter Kuehl
NWICC

"Thank you for the scholarship to attend Luther. I'm loving my time here, and it would not have been possible without your support. I am a nursing major and hope to become a nurse practitioner. I am involved in the Student Nurse Assoc. and a member of the soccer team. This past semester has been a period of growth and discovery in my life."



Rylie Bucklin
Luther College

"My semester at the U of I has been incredible. I'm a at-large senator for Student Government and developed strong leadership skills, met incredible people, and made an impact in my community. Thank you for believing in my ability to succeed. This scholarship made my goal of a college degree achievable."



Peyton Pentio
University of Iowa

"My first semester at Iowa State was filled with meeting new people, new activities, and interesting coursework. I'm majoring in software engineering with a minor in cybersecurity. I joined the Aeronautical Research Club, where we're building a wind turbine to take data on turbulence. Thank you for helping students like me pursue their dreams by removing a portion of the financial barrier to attaining a higher level of education."



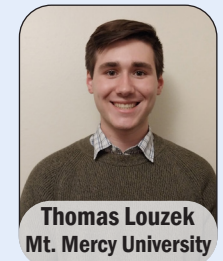
Casey Kirtz
Iowa State University

"Deciding to go to college was a difficult decision, but it has proven to be my most successful commitment to date. As I'm working on my Criminal Justice degree at Kirkwood, I am grateful for the generous scholarship from Linn County REC. I made many friends through classes and other activities. I can't wait for what the future holds. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to fulfill my goals!"



Jedediah Schmidt
Kirkwood

"I am attending Mount Mercy University to pursue a double major in accounting and finance. I am also preparing for the LSAT since I hope to attend law school once I finish my bachelor's degree. As it is my goal to someday practice law, I am extremely grateful to Linn County REC for giving me the financial flexibility to work towards my goal!"



Thomas Louzek
Mt. Mercy University

"My first semester has been an exciting, challenging, and amazing experience. I've made new friends and been exposed to many great opportunities. I am excited to pursue my goal of becoming a CRNA. I am so grateful for the support from Linn County REC. Their scholarship made a difference by helping me focus on my studies without worrying so much about finances."



Luke Schneider
Kirkwood

"I would like to thank you for awarding me a scholarship to help pursue a higher education. I am majoring in Finance and Accounting and minoring in Mathematics. I have joined business-related student organizations and have taken on leadership roles. These experiences have greatly enhanced my academic journey and provided opportunities to grow personally and professionally."



Noah Jordebrek
University of Iowa

"I want to thank Linn County REC for their generous scholarship. I am majoring in Computer Science at UNI. My first semester was filled with learning opportunities beyond my education, where I was exposed to new ideas, joined the Glee Club and Salt Company, and learned how to balance school with my personal life. Thank you for supporting my journey."



Kaleb Wesselink
Univ. of Northern Iowa

IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?



It's important to keep your contact information up-to-date, so you receive timely notifications from us. This includes your email address, phone number, and mailing address. Updating this information helps us enhance customer service, communicate more effectively during outages, and share news and information about our programs.

Your phone number is linked to your service address and our outage management system for reporting and repairing outages. We also plan outages occasionally to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we contact impacted members through automated phone messages.

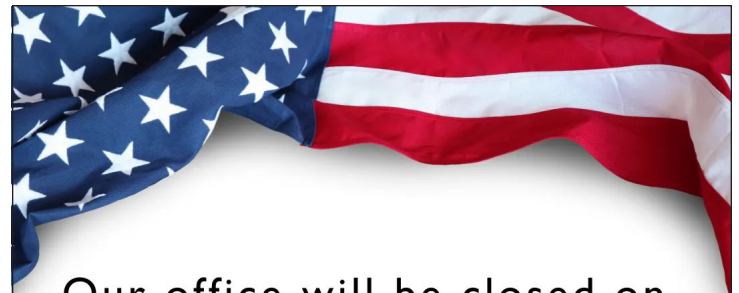
To ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information, you can manage your account settings via SmartHub, email us at lcrc@linncountyrec.com, or contact our office.



Slow Cooker Pasta e Fagioli

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 pound ground beef | 1 medium onion, chopped |
| 1 carton (32 oz) chicken broth | 2 medium carrots, chopped |
| 1-1/2 cups finely chopped cabbage | 1 celery rib, chopped |
| 2 teaspoons dried basil | 2 garlic cloves, minced |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 1/2 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 cans (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes, undrained | |
| 1 can (15 oz) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained | |
| 1 cup ditalini or other small pasta | |

In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until beef is no longer pink and onion is tender; drain. Transfer to a 4- or 5-qt. slow cooker. Stir in the broth, tomatoes, beans, carrots, cabbage, celery, basil, garlic, salt and pepper. Cover and cook on low until vegetables are tender, 7-8 hours. Stir in pasta. Cover and cook on high until pasta is tender, about 30 minutes longer. Sprinkle with cheese if desired.



Our office will be closed on
Monday, February 17, 2025
for
PRESIDENTS DAY

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



Donate To RECare To Help Others In Our Community

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

If you'd like to contribute to RECare, sign up through SmartHub on our website or make a notation on your bill stub. The amount can be a one-time pledge or included with the monthly net amount on your bill statement. Discontinue any time by contacting our office.



OFFICE CLOSED

Linn County REC offices will be closed February 14 for an employee in-service training day.

A bill payment kiosk is available 24 hours a day at our Marion office and North Liberty operations center.

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