



Linn County  
Rural Electric  
Cooperative

# ElectricConnection

A monthly publication for our members



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AUGUST 2025

## Introducing Corridor Energy: Powering the Future of Our Communities!

We are proud to announce a new chapter in our history by adopting a new brand name: Corridor Energy Cooperative. The co-op undertook this rebranding for several reasons:



**Corridor Energy Cooperative**

- **Reflects Our Evolving Membership:** Linn County REC's service territory has changed significantly since its founding in 1938 when it was established to provide power to those without access. Today, 65% of our members live within city limits, and over 55% reside in Johnson County. The name Corridor Energy Cooperative reflects the diverse membership across both urban and rural areas in the six counties we serve.
- **Promotes Economic Development:** As we compete to attract large loads to lower costs for all our members, removing "rural" from our name will help us better position ourselves to engage with business and industry. Corridor Energy represents our commitment to promoting economic development across the region and ensuring that we effectively meet the needs of all our members.
- **Staying Current in a Changing Energy Landscape:** The energy industry is evolving rapidly, with distributed energy resources, advanced grid technologies, and other innovations. Many cooperatives nationwide have rebranded to demonstrate their commitment to innovation and progress. Corridor Energy Cooperative is ready to meet the diverse energy needs of our communities.

### How Will This Affect Our Members

While our name will be different, our commitment to you remains the same. Our ownership structure, rates, and dedication to providing affordable and reliable energy solutions remain unchanged. We are simply updating our brand to better support the communities we serve.

### Looking Ahead

In the coming months, we will update our signs, billing, and marketing materials to prepare for the **official start date of December 8**. A new website will be launched at that time, reflecting our new brand and providing an improved online experience for our members.

As we transition to Corridor Energy Cooperative, we remain committed to delivering innovative energy solutions that meet the needs of our members. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey; we look forward to powering the future of our communities!



## Connect With Us At The Annual Meeting

Join us online for the annual meeting on **Friday, September 26th at 9:00 am**. Details on how to participate will be in next month's newsletter and on our website.

Our annual meeting is your opportunity to vote for the board of directors. This year, members will elect two board members. Learn more about the candidates by reading their biographies on page 2 and 3.

Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS) will administer our voting and ballot validation process. Voting will be available **from August 25th at 8:00 am through September 22nd at midnight**. All members may vote regardless of the district in which they reside. Members who vote are entered into a drawing for a bill credit.

### THREE WAYS TO VOTE:



**SMARTHUB:** Vote through SmartHub! Log in to your account and click the "vote now" button.



**ONLINE:** Log in to [directvote.net/LCRECIA](https://directvote.net/LCRECIA). Use your member number and election passcode (top left corner) to log in.



**MAIL BALLOT:** Ballots will be sent on August 25th. Return your completed ballot by using the provided prepaid envelope by September 22nd.

## District 1: Rick Hannen



"I am a retired farmer. I also worked for 30 years for the local electric utility to pay for our farm. My wife and farming partner have been married for 58 years. We have two daughters and two granddaughters.

The electric utility business is changing

because of the expansion of wind, solar (both utility and private), battery technology, electric vehicles, and time of day load shifting by consumers.

If elected I hope that my experience in electric power generation and transmission will be useful to help our cooperative navigate these changes."

## District 1: Wesley Nelson



**Member since:** 2015

**Occupation:** Maine Township Clerk

- Public Accountant, 11 years performing REC audits.
- Finance Director/City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Marion for 30 years.

**What strengths would you bring to our board if elected?** "As a CPA with extensive REC audit experience, a proven track record, and a solid Finance background I am eager to use this to assist the REC Board. In Public Accounting, I performed audits on REC's involving all aspects of the audit including inventory, reviewing debt, confirmations, staff and management discussions, internal control and drafting, delivering and presenting audit reports to the REC Board of Directors. In running the City of Marion Finance

Department, I was responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Department including receipts, disbursements, investments, debt, TIF, etc., but also during that time assisted Linn County REC with TIF (Tax Increment Financing) with the former Manager."

**Short term/Long term goals:** "To represent my District the best I can but also to complement the entire membership maintaining a financially sound, resourceful and transparent organization that exists for the benefit of all its members."

**What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the co-op today?** "There will always be pressures facing the REC and its members and if elected, I would address these and all other issues with the assistance of the other Board members/management and staff."

## District 1: Kenny Squires



**Member since:** 1959

**Occupation:** Farmer; I have successfully farmed for over 50 years and for the last 30 years, I have operated as a family farm corporation that operates over 2000 acres.

**What strengths would you bring to our board if re-elected?**

"As a credentialed cooperative director, I continue to stay updated on changing environmental issues and on changes that affect the cooperative. I am conservative, dependable, am open to listen and address issues. My core ethical values are honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect and compassion."

**Short term/Long term goals:** "I want to stay updated and educated on the changes affecting the distribution of electricity. Then, I want to keep Linn County REC progressive and a leader in technology. I also want

to continue to keep Linn County REC a leader in environmental changes and green issues. Finally, I want to continue keeping our members first, which includes paying capital credits and providing reliable power."

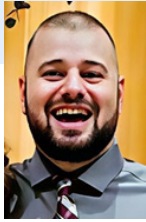
**What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the co-op today?** "As a not-for-profit cooperative, our goal is to continue providing reliable service at an affordable price. Currently, additional regulations are increasing our costs, and as a co-op, we want to keep our rates affordable to our members. With the potential restart of Duane Arnold, it would be crucial for supplying power to data centers looking to establish themselves in our territory.

One of the main legislative issues that keeps arising is territory protection, which is essential for maintaining stable rates. If we lose our designated area, it could negatively impact our pricing."

## District 5: Ben Garrett

**Member since:** 2022

**Occupation:** Self-employed; sole operator of The Gaming Monastery LLC.



Previously employed as an Analytical Reporting Analyst with Transamerica. Had been with Transamerica for 6 years as a Financial Analyst

**What strengths would you bring to our board if elected?** “I would bring analytical strengths that would help me assess and appropriately tackle any issues that may arise. I am calm and cool headed, and have a background in finance which will help me look at ways to efficiently use the budget to help make improvements to services for members and save the cooperative money. Agile/scrum planning for project management.”

**Short term/Long term goals:** “Short term goals are to get myself acclimated to the inner workings of the co-op so that I can start contributing as quickly as possible. Long-term goals would be to help maintain costs while helping improve services for members. Would also like to help save the Co-op money in the long haul.”

**What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the co-op today?** “I believe there are a couple of big issues that will always be considered big issues in today’s day and age. These are maintaining meaningful growth while making sure that your level of service and reliability does not drop off. Another issue is cybersecurity. This will always be a big area of concern as technology continues to advance, the ability for bad people to infiltrate sensitive information will continue to advance as well.”

## District 5: Lisa Rose

**Member since:** 1982

**Occupation:** Retired Program Management and Business Development Executive



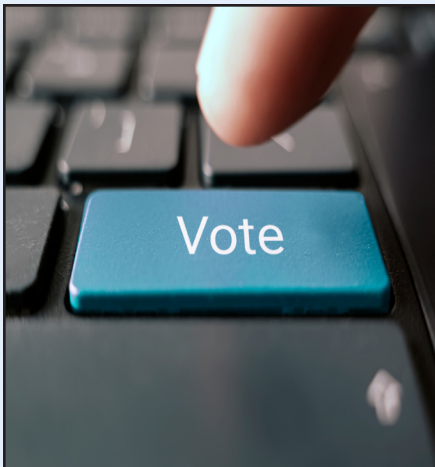
**What strengths would you bring to our board if re-elected?**

“Large account management and expansion, client relationship management, new business development, consultative sales and marketing, motivational leadership and team management, creative and resourceful crisis management, revenue generation and profitability.”

**Short term/Long term goals:** “In an ever-changing industry it is important to stay abreast of the local, regional and national issues that are facing or could potentially face Linn County REC. My short-term goal is to continue to build my knowledge and to stay abreast of electric cooperative issues by 1.) attending National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc. (NRECA) courses/activities, 2.) understanding local, state and national legislation and its potential impact to the REC and 3.) interacting with board members of other electric cooperatives. I want to work alongside other board members and the Linn County REC leadership to represent members on all issues that could potentially impact the cooperative (operations, legislative, community, financial, safety, renewable energy, reliability, etc.) and to ensure that we adhere to the guiding principles of the cooperative.”

**What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the co-op today?** “The big issues continue to be reliability, affordability, cyber security, and AI. These factors need to be at the forefront of all decisions that impact the co-op and its members.”

## FOUR REASONS TO VOTE IN CO-OP DIRECTOR ELECTIONS



Electric co-ops are led by the members they serve, which means you have a say in who governs our co-op. Here are four reasons why you should participate in director elections.

1. As a member of the co-op, your input matters.
2. Directors represent you on important energy-related issues.
3. Directors' decisions can impact electricity rates and future projects.
4. With convenient voting options available, it only takes a minute.

We want to make voting as convenient as possible for our members, so we offer three ways for you to participate: SmartHub, online through the direct vote website, or by mail ballot. Voting begins August 25th!



# Understanding Your Electric Bill: A Three-Part Series (part three)

Understanding your bill is essential for managing energy usage and saving money. In the last article of our three-part series, learn about our time-of-day rate structure and how you can use it to lower your energy costs.

## TIME OF DAY RATE

In 2023, Linn County REC transitioned to a time-of-day rate to better align with how we are billed from our power supplier. This rate structure is based on the time of day you use electricity and our cost of supplying electricity to you during that time.

## HOW IT WORKS

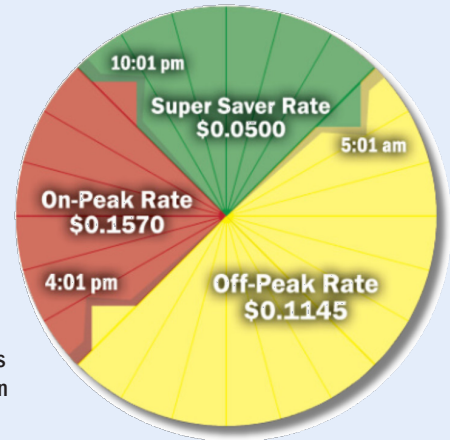
The time-of-day rate structure helps ensure that each member pays their share of the cost to operate the co-op they own and gives members more control over their bills. If you use electricity when the total used by all Linn County REC members is lowest during the night (Super Saver), both your and the membership's costs will be lower. If you use electricity when the total used by all Linn County REC's members during high demand, both your and the membership's cost will be higher.

## QUESTIONS?

Visit [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com) to learn more about peak energy times and our time-of-day rate structure. If you have any questions about your bill, please contact our Consumer Services department.

## SHIFT AND SAVE

By utilizing the time-of-day rate effectively, you can reduce your energy bill. Shifting your electricity usage away from peak hours lowers costs for you and Linn County REC.



- Spread out the use of major appliances rather than running them at the same time to minimize your demand.
- Move laundry and other chores to off-peak hours. Use the delay start feature on your washer, dishwasher, or a timer for other appliances to run at different times.
- If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods.
- Unplug charging cables and small appliances when not in use. Plug larger items like TVs into a power strip that can be flipped on and off.
- If you have an electric vehicle, charge it overnight.
- Use smart plugs/automatic timers to run appliances and equipment such as dehumidifiers, EV chargers, and pools/hot tubs.



## Chicken & Bacon Roll-Ups

- 1 can (9-3/4 ounces) chunk white chicken, drained
- 1 carton (8 ounces) spreadable garden vegetable cream cheese
- 1 cup salsa, divided
- 4 pieces ready-to-serve fully cooked bacon, crumbled
- 6 flour tortillas (8 inches), room temperature

Mix chicken, cream cheese, 1/2 cup salsa and bacon; spread over tortillas. Roll up tightly; wrap. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Just before serving, unwrap and cut tortillas into 1" slices. Serve with remaining salsa.



## Office Closed

Our office will close September 1st in observance of Labor Day. Bill payment kiosks are available 24 hours a day at our Marion office and North Liberty operations center.

Calls are answered and crews are available 24/7.

**Have a safe and happy holiday!**

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