

SOUTHWEST LINES



SOUTHWEST IOWA
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM Find us at www.swiarec.coop

• Don't forget to check out our **NEW WEB SITE!!** Find us at www.swiarec.coop. Tell us what you think about it!!

• **BEFORE DIGGING...**
CALL 811 – Make sure underground lines are located **BEFORE** you start to DIG!!

• **In case of Down Power Lines REMEMBER:** no matter what vehicle you're in (tractor, car, pickup, combine) – always remember to:

- Stay in the vehicle
- Call for help
- If you **MUST** exit the vehicle (in case of fire) **JUMP CLEAR!**
- Never touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. It could be a deadly mistake!
- Do not touch any wires!

Scholarships Available for High School Seniors

Southwest Iowa REC will once again be offering scholarships for the 2015 school year to graduating high school seniors. **Students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school. The parent or guardian of the student must be a Southwest Iowa REC member and the student MUST RESIDE in the REC-served residence.**

Applications are available at your high school guidance counselor's office or you may fill out the form below. Recipients of the scholarships will be chosen by a selection committee appointed by Southwest Iowa REC whose decisions are final.

We will be awarding twelve (12) \$500 scholarships. In addition, two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be available for students planning to attend an Accredited Lineman School.

Completed applications and a photo must be received at the REC Office by March 2, 2015 to be eligible.

Scholarship Information

Please send me the Southwest Iowa REC Scholarship Application form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ High School _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

REC Account #/Location#: _____

Corning Office

1801 Grove Avenue
Corning, IA 50841
(641) 322-3165
888-591-1261

Stanton Office

415 Broad Avenue
Stanton, IA 51573
(712) 829-2211
888-591-1260

Mt. Ayr Office

1502 W. South Street
Mount Ayr, IA 50854
(641) 464-2244
888-220-4869



Ginny Eighmy honored for 25 years of service to electric cooperatives

At the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in West Des Moines, Ginny Eighmy (Director of Finance/Admin. Services) of Southwest Iowa REC was recognized for 25 years of service. During a special awards ceremony, Eighmy joined other 25-year honorees who received commemorative certificates from association president Marion Denger.

"Ginny Eighmy exemplifies the steady dedication Iowa's electric cooperatives have to providing reliable, affordable and safe electricity to our members," said Denger. "It is a commitment we made to our members long ago – during the 1930s, when the national Rural Electrification Administration was formed – and it is the same commitment we maintain with our members today."

**Manager's
Comments**



Phil Kinser

**Southwest Iowa REC
Mission Statement:**

Provide safe and reliable electric service, while also advancing community and economic development opportunities, in a manner consistent with sound cooperative business practices and values.

Advocating for affordable, reliable power

As your electric cooperative, our top priority is to provide power that is as affordable and reliable as possible. To that end, I want to give you an update on recent activity regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants.

First of all, I want to thank our member-owners who took the time to send comments to the EPA, voicing their concern for the future affordability and reliability of electricity before the December 1 comment period deadline. Nationally, electric cooperatives submitted more than 1.1 million comments from co-op member-owners to the EPA in opposition to the agency's proposed 111(d) regulations to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The message we send is simple: We urge the EPA to consider the cost and reliability impacts their proposed regulations will have on consumers. We exist to serve our member-owners, and they are telling the EPA to consider a balanced approach to curb greenhouse gases.

Back in June, under the authority of Clean Air Act section 111(d), the EPA proposed emission regulations for states to follow in developing plans to address greenhouse gas emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. These plans, known as state implementation plans, are developed by state and local air quality management agencies and submitted to EPA for approval.

In Iowa, the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Utilities Board, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority are responsible for formulating Iowa's 111(d) state implementation plan to achieve the EPA's performance standards; the state plan must be submitted by June 2016. Between now and June 2015, the EPA will review submitted comments and host meetings with stakeholders before finalizing the 111(d) regulations.

We also extend sincere thanks to Governor Branstad, the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Economic Development Authority for submitting comments to the EPA and for considering how these proposed regulations will impact thousands of co-op member-owners as the agencies begin drafting Iowa's state implementation plan to achieve the EPA's performance standards.

Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives have taken several proactive measures to support environmental responsibility over the years, including commitments to renewable power generation, promotion of energy efficiency and load control programs, investments in digital meters and smart grid infrastructure, and cleaning up existing coal-fired power stations.

Southwest Iowa REC is committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable power that is environmentally responsible. We look forward to working with state agencies as they develop a reasonable state implementation plan to comply with EPA mandates. And we will continue to urge the EPA to consider how their regulations will impact the cost and reliability of electricity for our member-owners.

How to Use the EnergyGuide Label

Appliance manufacturers are federally required to provide an EnergyGuide label so consumers can compare energy use between different brands and models.

Appliance features that impact cost range: Automatic Defrost, Side-By-Side Refrigerator, Through-the-Door Ice, 22 Cubic Feet Capacity.

Product make, model, and size: XYZ Corporation Model ABC-1.

Amount you might pay to run the appliance for a year based on energy use and the national average cost of electricity: **\$67**

Range of operating costs for models with similar features: \$57 to \$74.

How much electricity the product uses. Multiply this by your local electricity rate for an idea of your actual operating cost: **630 kWh** Estimated Yearly Electricity Use.

Your cost will depend on your utility rates and use.

Source: Federal Trade Commission, ftc.gov/appliances

Why do Co-Ops Advertise?

Southwest Iowa REC's main purpose in advertising is to teach and promote electrical safety and energy efficiency to meet federal and state regulations – and to educate our members and policy-makers about the Cooperative – and what we do for our communities.

- Like any other business, Southwest Iowa REC uses paid advertising to communicate a message to a specific audience. The personal safety of our members and the general public is our primary concern.
- Advertising is a communication tool we use to reach our members and the general public about issues important to our business, such as the need for additional base-load electric generation or energy efficiency tips that save consumers electricity and money.
- We have used advertising to educate legislators and regulators about major issues that significantly impact

the cost of your electric bill, such as climate change legislation.

- As an electric cooperative, we have made a commitment to the communities we serve. That means we sponsor and support programs that enhance the community and provide services to our members such as our revolving loan fund and student scholarship programs.
- Advertising helps us develop name recognition with legislators and regulators. It is important for them to know who we are and what we do when we contact them to advocate on behalf of your interests – collectively, cooperative members have a strong voice.
- Because Southwest Iowa REC benefits from the combined buying power of anywhere from a dozen to 30 different electric cooperatives, we get a great return for our advertising dollars.

Preparing for a Winter Storm

Extreme winter weather can immobilize an entire region. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can suddenly be hit with heavy snowfall or intense cold. Winter storms can result in closed streets and highways, power outages and flooding. Take action now to ensure the safety and comfort of your family in the event of extreme winter weather.

Before a storm

- Have snow removal equipment on hand, as well as rock salt to melt ice, and sand to improve traction.
- Regular heating fuel sources may be cut off, so make sure an alternative is available. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Locate your main water supply and valves and make sure you know how to shut them off in case a freezing pipe bursts.
- Repair roof leaks and keep gutters clear. Trim any tree branches that could fall on your house during a storm.
- Winterize your home by caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, sealing the attic area and installing storm windows. This will help to keep your family safe and comfortable during a storm.

During a storm

- Listen to your radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio for weather reports and emergency information.
- Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.

- If it becomes necessary to conserve fuel, keep your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- Stay dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent the loss of body heat.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Drive only if it is necessary. If you must drive, travel in the daytime, do not drive alone and keep others informed of your whereabouts. Also, stay on main roads. Avoid back-road shortcuts.

After a storm

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.
- Help neighbors who may require special assistance including infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation and open all faucets; pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold. Do not try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame.
- Follow forecasts and be prepared when venturing outside. Major winter storms are often followed by extremely cold conditions.
- A little forethought and some attention to detail will help to ensure that you and your family stay warm, dry and safe in your home this winter, no matter what the weather is outside.
- Southwest Iowa REC has secured the right to publish this document.



Employee Spotlight

Name: Phil Kinser
Family: Married to Karen. Two daughters Amanda (Anthony) Donahoo of Corning that have one daughter Kinsey and one boy due April, 2015; Megan (Chris) King of Corning; One son Johnathan (Sophomore at Southwest Valley).
Date of Hire: December 19, 1988
Current Position: CEO & General Manager
Favorite Recipe: Layered Mexican Dip



The RECipe

Layered Mexican Dip

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 (15 oz.) can black olives, chopped |
| 1 pkg. taco seasoning | 1-2 fresh tomatoes, chopped |
| 1 (15 oz.) can refried beans | 1 onion |
| 1 (16 oz.) sour cream | |
| Prepared guacamole | |
| 1 lb. Cheddar cheese, shredded | |

Brown ground beef and add taco seasoning. Spread refried beans evenly on a cookie sheet or platter. Spread ground beef mixture over refried beans, followed by layers of sour cream, guacamole, shredded cheese, olives, tomatoes and onion. Refrigerate until serving. Serve with tortilla chips and salsa.

2015 Vegetation Management Plans

The majority of our vegetation management program is completed during the months of January – March. In **2015 the following areas are scheduled for vegetation management:**

Coddington Inc. (contractor)

Decatur County – Bloomington and Fayette townships

REC Crews

Adams County – Douglas township

Decatur County – Burrell township

Montgomery County – Douglas and Washington townships

Page County – Fremont township

Ringgold County – Union township

Union County – Sand Creek township

You can always feel free to contact us at any of our service locations in Corning, Mount Ayr or Stanton with any questions you might have on this process. Or perhaps, you would like to let us know about a tree or other vegetation that you think could be too close to power lines or important electrical equipment. You'll also find helpful information on our website at www.swiarec.coop.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

CRIME

STOPPERS

800-452-1111

TOGETHER WE CAN CUT DOWN ON COPPER THEFT!