



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

July 2015



## Nominating Committee Selects Candidates for 2015 election

THE BOARD-APPOINTED 2015 NOMINATING Committee for Southwest Iowa REC, pictured from left, is: Doug Calkins, Charles Abar, Kenny Schaefer, Stacey Truman and Fred Berggren. The committee met Monday, June 22nd and nominated the following cooperative members for the office of Director for the ensuing term of three (3) years each, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting September 22, 2015:

**Region 1 - District No. 1:** Jason Smith; Jack Stephens

**Region 1 - District No. 3:** David Freed; Dale Walkup

**Region 2 - District No. 5:** Deena Moore; Michelle Rice; Glen Roberts

**Region 2 - District No. 7:** Dana Morgan, David Mullen

**Chairman** - *Doug Calkins*

## Co-op Connections Card Puts Value in Your Wallet

SOUTHWEST IOWA RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. Southwest Iowa REC's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. The card gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers. You can check out these great national discounts at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the

discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.



Local businesses are signing up for discounts to be passed on to you as a member of Southwest Iowa REC. Visit: Breadeaux Pizza (Corning), Sweet Desires Bakery (Corning), Hair Designer's (Corning), UFMC Mart (Corning), Studio 406 (Corning), Pizza Ranch (Red Oak), Offspring's Furniture (Mt. Ayr), Country Blossoms (Mt. Ayr) and many more participating local businesses to receive your savings discount!

We are eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at (888) 220-4869 to find out more.

SEPT. 22 2015 SAVE the DATE Southwest Iowa REC ANNUAL MEETING Lenox Community Center



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid material - not plastic that may collapse and cause blockages.

# Principles + Values = Cooperatives

*A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.* – Dwight D. Eisenhower

ALL COOPERATIVES AROUND THE WORLD operate in accordance with the following seven cooperative principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Less known is the fact that cooperatives have also adopted a set of values that helps to put these principles into practice.

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-ops believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Let's take a closer look at these values and see how they impact us at Southwest Iowa REC.

The founders of Southwest Iowa REC (and its predecessors) created it to serve the members that use the electricity and other services we provide, and we continue to do that today. This embodies the values of *self-help*, taking action and doing what needs to be done. We also know we must embrace the value of *self-responsibility* and be accountable



to you, our member.

Each member has one vote, no matter how much electricity you use. This ensures that *democracy* is practiced the way it is intended with equality for all members. This is a key difference between co-ops and investor-owned companies where the number of votes you have depends on the number of shares you own.



Phil Kinser

For co-op members, *equity* has two meanings. We strive to treat all of our members fairly. It also means that, as a member, you have equity (ownership) in the co-op.

While each co-op is autonomous, we do act in *solidarity* with other co-ops and our community. We know that we can do more for you by partnering with other co-ops and like-minded organizations.

Your parents were right when they said, "honesty is the best policy." As an owner, you have the right to expect us to act with openness and in a transparent manner. We welcome your active participation in our co-op.

Cooperatives have long (and correctly) been identified as the original socially responsible businesses, meaning we care about the impact we have on the community while ensuring we are economically viable.

We try to demonstrate our concern for the community through caring for others every single day, whether it is through our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) that acts as a catalyst for economic and community development or Operation Round-Up® that assists individuals and organizations in our service area or by giving scholarships to graduating seniors to further their education.

By using our values in support of our principles, we have been able to serve you for nearly 80 years and will do so long into the future.

## Solar – Wind – All CO-Generation News

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR, WIND OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF CO-GENERATION, YOU need to contact Southwest Iowa REC. As of January 1, 2013, it is required by law that you contact your electricity utility prior to installing an alternate energy generator including: solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residue or wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric line – to produce electricity.

The owner must provide written notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the technology. Our lineman could be seriously injured or even killed while working on the electric lines without knowing about the members' new technology.

**Safety is our #1 priority! And ... after all – it IS the law!**

# 2014 CIPCO Power Supply Report

AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ON BOTH THE Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and the Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) Board of Directors, I have the duty to ensure your energy needs are met. And while fulfilling that duty is more challenging today than ever before, I am also often reminded that it is just as rewarding.

As our cooperative's power provider, CIPCO continues to intelligently maneuver within a changing regulatory environment. In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set goals known as the Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions on a state-by-state basis. With a bit of flexibility in how to meet those goals, Iowa is still facing a 16 percent emissions reduction for existing fossil fuel-fired power plants. With more than 60 percent of its power generated from carbon-free resources, CIPCO is in a good position to achieve the proposed reductions by 2030, and is engaged to help educate policymakers on how these regulations affect Iowa and rural electric co-ops like ours.

CIPCO's strong financial focus on its operation provides the corporate stability that benefits Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative and each of CIPCO's member distribution systems. That means we receive the benefit of patronage dividends, or excess revenue

that is then credited back to you. The CIPCO board recently authorized the allocation of \$23 million in patronage. This allocation breaks down as follows: \$4 million payable in 2015, \$10 million allocated to a 40 year roll and \$8 million to the 15 year roll. The balance of the 2014 margin, \$1,987,352 reserve was allocated to the statutory surplus. Additionally the CIPCO board actions included the retirement of patronage dividends totaling \$7 million. This represents the retirement of \$2 million of 1999 patronage capital, \$4 million of the 2014 current dividend and additional cash retirement of \$1,017,078 representing member election for payment of the 40 year allocation. The total payment to Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative equals \$309,757.04.

On the national front, CIPCO participated in activities that will help enhance and grow Iowa's rural economy and maximize financial incentives within our service territory. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack visited CIPCO's Cedar Rapids office to lead a roundtable discussion on rural equity investment and announce a new \$150 million investment fund designed to assist small businesses in rural areas. The new Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC), licensed by the USDA, will make private equity investments in agriculture-related businesses.

A few months after the announcement, CIPCO was on hand in Washington, D.C. to participate in the White House Council's Rural Opportunity Investment Conference, where senior government officials, rural economic development experts, business and financial leaders came together to discuss ways to develop partnership that create jobs, grow small businesses and invest in critical rural infrastructure.

Making the investment today to handle the energy needs of tomorrow is a prime focus of the CIPCO board. We realize how important it is to approve expenditures for improvement projects at CIPCO generation facilities, and replace or upgrade the poles and wires that

are no longer efficient. In 2014, the CIPCO Board approved a \$28 million capital program to support these changes. Though CIPCO's annual electric sales were down slightly from 2013 to 2.77 million MWhs in 2014, electricity demand peaked at 561 MW in January, 2014, thanks to the "polar vortex."

The event marked the first time ever that CIPCO experienced peak demand in the winter.

The CIPCO board approved \$35 million for the Cedar Rapids to Iowa City Corridor Grid Expansion Plan, or approximately 1/3 of the total project cost of \$108 million. It is better to allocate the funds to plan for the electric system load growth now rather than wait until big economic development projects come in and can't be accommodated.

CIPCO continues to have steady, deliberate growth. The 2014 forecast models anticipate an annual growth rate of 1% from 2014-2033, down from 1.3% forecasted in 2013. Recovery from the economic recession and aggressive energy efficiency programs were cited as two reasons why the growth rate was a bit lower. Most of the growth is expected to occur in the commercial and industrial areas, estimated at 2.1% over the next 20 years, while residential growth is estimated at .3%.

In my role as a CIPCO director, I'm guided by what is in our members' best interest when making important decisions. I understand how incredibly important our service is to our community and that our decisions impact every household and business we represent. CIPCO and Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative are committed to delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you, and ensuring your power needs are met now and well into the future.



**Dale Walkup**  
Representative  
on the CIPCO  
Board of  
Directors

**Members first.  
Every day.  
That's the  
power of co-op  
membership.**

*Sponsoring the Iowa  
State Fair's 4-H  
Exhibits Building*

**Aug. 13-23, 2015**



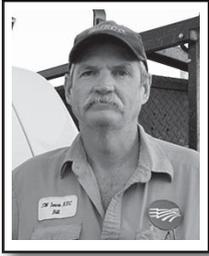
**Iowa's Electric Cooperatives**

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Partners 

**Iowa State Fair**  
**OFFICIAL SPONSOR**  
**AUG 13-23**

Visit our booth and register to  
win a GoPro® camera kit.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** Bill Scharfenkamp  
**Family:** Married to Kim. Three children: Mary (Phil) Blaisure; Bob (Julie) Scharfenkamp; and Chris DeBoard.

**Date of Hire:** March 30, 1998

**Current Position:** Line Foreman

**Favorite Recipe:** Homemade Noodles

## Homemade Noodles (Vane Olney's recipe)

Ingredients:

1 egg                      1 T milk  
 Salt                      ¾ cup flour (to start)

Beat egg until blended. Add other ingredients. Roll out with a rolling pin on a floured surface. Make the dough very thin and make sure you have plenty of flour on it so that it won't stick together. Then roll it up like a jellyroll and slice very thin. Let dry about 45 minutes, tossing occasionally. Add to your favorite beef (or chicken) boiling broth and cook the noodles until tender. This recipe can be doubled or tripled as needed.



The X RECipe

*Bravo!*

Thank you so much for choosing me to be a recipient of one of your scholarships! -Jade Wilbourne

Thank you so much for selecting me as a candidate for your scholarship. -Shelby Cooper

Thank you for choosing me to receive the \$500.00 scholarship! -Kaitlyn Klommhaus

I would like to thank you so much for awarding me with a \$500.00 scholarship! -Bailey Schmitz

**CRIME STOPPERS**  
 800-452-1111  
**STOP COPPER THEFT!**

## Show You Care with RECare!

SOUTHWEST IOWA REC HAS ALWAYS extended a helping hand to those needing it. We have a program of members helping members called RECare.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. While some federal and state dollars exist to help those in need, there are still shortfalls. You may make a one time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! You care, we care, RECare.

### Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is closed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare.

I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to your local Southwest Iowa REC office.



Find us on Facebook

**Corning**  
 1801 Grove Ave., Corning, IA 50841  
**Mount Ayr**  
 1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854  
**Stanton**  
 415 Broad Ave., Stanton, IA 51573

**Board of Directors**  
 Richard Fast, President                      Mark Herzberg  
 Marilyn Werner, Vice President              Dennis Meier  
 Jack Stephens, Treasurer                      Dana Morgan  
 Dale Walkup, Secretary                        Ken Peppmeier  
 Richard "Dick" Ballantyne                      Glen Roberts

Phil Kinser, CEO

**NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR ALL LOCATIONS:**  
 (888) 220-4869