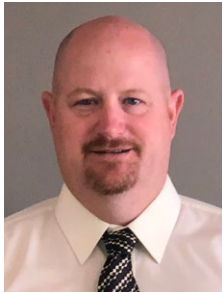




JUNE DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

District 6 – Joe Parker



Director Parker has been a member of Calhoun County ECA since 2013. He is currently serving his first term on CCECA's Board of Directors as he was first elected in 2022. Joe resides west of Lohrville with his wife Heather and three children. He has been employed at NEW Cooperative for over 15 years.

- 1. After serving as a cooperative director, what is something you would like your fellow members to know about the co-op or the electric industry?**

The Calhoun County ECA and its employees are involved

far more than I realized in the local communities. There is also far more planning and logistics that go into reliable sources of electricity.

- 2. What trend or issue are you most concerned about in the year ahead for the co-op or the electric industry?**

The unrealized strain and increased cost on the electric industry for electric vehicles, bitcoin, or other cryptocurrencies.

- 3. What do you appreciate about the cooperative now that you serve as a director on the board?**

I have a greater appreciation for the linemen and all it takes to keep the lights on.

CCECA Attends Conservation Day

April 25, Calhoun County ECA was invited to attend Conservation Day hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach of Calhoun County. The event was held at Featherstone Park to talk with sixth grade students from South Central Calhoun. Manager of Member Services & IT Richard Hall taught students about

electric vehicles and gave them the opportunity to look at CCECA's Tesla. He also discussed the importance of using energy wisely and ways to do so. Administrative Assistant/Communications Specialist Menley Cates also attended Conservation Day.



There's a lot of talk today about the "energy transition" to renewable energy, including wind and solar power. But there's a lot more to the story when it comes to supplying the reliable, affordable electricity people need to power their homes, farms and businesses—all which are at risk, according to Robert Bryce, an author, journalist and host of the "Power Hungry" podcast.

In May 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a greenhouse gas (GHG) rule that aims to cut carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions roughly 90% from the electric sector. "Where will we get the juice?" asked Bryce, who spoke at the December 2023 annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in West Des Moines. "This will directly impact you and your electric co-op members."

There's a coordinated effort of federal government agencies, climate activist groups, big business, big academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to push the "energy transition." "They're promoting the heck out of it," said Bryce during his presentation "Renewables, Hydrocarbons and the Future of Our Electric Grid." "What we're seeing is a widespread propaganda effort."

Is a complete shift to renewable energy feasible? For the first time, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has cited energy policy as a reliability risk factor, stating that "policy decisions can significantly affect the reliability and resilience of the bulk power system."

NERC has also identified reliability risk priorities, citing concerns about "wind and solar droughts," Bryce noted. "If we're facing more extreme weather, why would we ever make our most important energy network dependent on the weather?" Bryce asked. "It makes no sense."

Beyond Carbon aims to "finish the job" on coal

If federal policies weren't enough, consider the billionaires who are

CCECA NEWS

funding efforts to transform America's energy sources.

In September 2023, businessman Michael Bloomberg announced an additional \$500 million commitment to expand the Beyond Carbon campaign, one of the largest efforts to "fight the climate crisis in the U.S.," according to a press release at [Bloomberg.org](https://www.bloomberg.org). By 2030, Beyond Carbon aims to shut down every last U.S. coal plant, slash gas plant capacity in half, and block all new gas-fired plants.

"Thirteen years ago, when cap-and-trade efforts failed in Congress, our team refused to let politics trump progress," stated Bloomberg, who is the UN Secretary-General's "Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions."

In 2019, Bloomberg launched Beyond Carbon with an initial \$500 million, according to the press release. To date, Beyond Carbon has helped secure the retirement of more than 70% of U.S. coal plants and stopped more than 30% of planned gas capacity. "Today marks a new chapter in the Beyond Carbon campaign, as we move to finish the job" on coal in the United States, Bloomberg added in the news release.

Meanwhile, China permitted two new coal-fired plants per week in 2022 to generate a staggering 106 gigawatts of new capacity, equal to 100 large coal-fired plants, Bryce noted. It's not just China. In late 2023, India recently announced plans to build 17 gigawatts of new coal-fired energy capacity in the next year and a half, he added.

"Beyond Carbon aims to shutter 1,800 terawatt hours a year of electrical generation," Bryce said. "That's equal to the annual electricity use of nine states, among them California, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. I can't imagine a more radical agenda. This is bonkers, and it's deeply dangerous."

Who pays?

Efforts like Beyond Carbon, as well as the EPA's proposed power plant rule, threaten electric cooperatives' ability to

provide reliable, affordable electricity to their members. This concerns Basin Electric, a not-for-profit, generation-and-transmission cooperative owned by 141-member cooperative systems, including the Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association.

"This is EPA's third attempt to regulate greenhouse gas emissions emitted by natural gas and coal-based electric generating units," noted Andy Buntrock, vice president, strategic planning & communications, for Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Basin provides wholesale power to members in nine states, with electric generation facilities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Iowa, serving approximately 3 million members. The cooperative has a diverse energy portfolio consisting of coal, gas, oil and renewable energy.

"Compliance with these new EPA regulations would require relying on technologies that are in their infancy," Buntrock noted. "Compliance would also come at an exorbitant, unprecedented cost to our members and electric consumers across the country, making the affordably priced, reliable electricity that we've come to take for granted into a luxury only the wealthy could afford."

State regulations that impact natural gas and coal-based electric generating units are also making energy much more expensive in some parts of the country. Already, 76 California communities have banned natural gas, Bryce added. Boston, New York and other communities and states are imposing new regulations on natural gas. "This madness is happening all across the country. A train wreck is coming, and it's going to be painful."

So who pays for all this? Affordability is something you rarely hear about when it comes to the energy transition, Bryce said. "The electrify everything' push is a regressive tax that will hurt the middle class and the poor."

Consider the change in California's residential electricity prices in the last

To Appoint Nominating Committee

Excerpts from bylaws

15 years. In 2008, then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger supported legislation to increase California's renewable energy portfolio standard to 33% by 2020. "As a result, Californians' electrical bills have soared 3.2 times faster than the rest of the United States," Bryce said.

There is "no serious analysis"

For a minute, however, assume the federal government and states like California are right when it comes to the energy transition. Imagine that America shuts down all its gas- and coal-fired plants, and replaces this power with renewable energy.

"Even though there have been approximately 603 wind and solar rejections in the United States from 2015 to 2023, let's assume these energy transition promoters get the land," Bryce said. "How do you connect these energy sources? Where are you going to put all those high-voltage (HV) transmission lines?"

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that the U.S. needs 57% growth in HV transmission lines. The U.S. currently has 240,000 miles of HV transmission, Bryce noted. "From 2008 to 2021, the U.S. built 1,700 miles of HV per year. At that rate, building the required 136,800 miles of additional HV lines will take 80 years."

There is no serious analysis behind this push for the energy transition, Bryce added. "There's just lots of propaganda that's overwhelming reason."

Lest anyone thinks this perspective reflects Bryce's political bias, he said he's not a Republican or a Democrat. He's just trying to lay out the facts so Iowa's rural electric cooperatives and others who care about America's energy supply can address these challenges.

"As a member-owned rural electric cooperative, your first responsibility to your customer-owners is to provide them with affordable, reliable, resilient power," Bryce said. "You need to push back on these regulations, because they are ruinous. They will cost your co-op members a ton of money."

The following is the process involved in the nomination of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative members for election to the Board of Directors. Two directors will be elected at the 88th Annual Meeting which will be held on September 5, 2024. Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than 40 nor more than 90 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations, consisting of three members from each district from which a director is elected. No members of the Board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting a list of those candidates nominated from each district from which a director is to be elected. **The committee is encouraged, but not required, to nominate at least two candidates for each director to be elected.** Any fifteen (15) or more members from a district from which a Director is to be elected, acting together, may make other nominations for Director from their district by petition not less than 20 days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee in your district, please call Keaton Hildreth, CEO, at 712-297-7112.



Member Appreciation Event & Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 5, 2024

CCECA Office in Rockwell City
Details to follow



.....HAPPY.....
Father's Day

Sunday, June 16th

We celebrate all the incredible fathers and father figures who fill our lives with love.

THE PERFECT PRESENT for FATHER'S DAY

Stop by our office and check out the various MECO grill products – would make a great Father's Day present!



Our office will be closed July 4, 2024!

Employee Appreciation

Calhoun County ECA is filled with people who are appreciated every day! To celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day (April 18) and Administrative Professionals Day (April 24) linemen, office employees, and directors from CCECA gathered at Twin Lakes Bible Camp for lunch on April 22.

After lunch everyone was invited to try out the zip line at the Bible Camp which linemen from CCECA helped set the poles for. It was a great afternoon for employees and directors to learn more about each other while building important team skills.



June Member Challenge

1. CCECA attended Conservation Day, where was it held? _____
2. How many member cooperative systems is Basin Electric Power Cooperative owned by? _____
3. When is the 2024 annual meeting? _____

Name _____

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. **Send your answer to memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop, clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: www.calhounrec.coop/member-challenge-submission.** You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline!

Entries for this issue **must be received by July 1st**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a **\$10 credit** on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least 4 times throughout the year, will be eligible for a \$100 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

Congratulations April winners:

Larry Lockner, Scott Becker, & Dan Reynolds

Reach Us

OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Monday-Friday)

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Jim Miller, President – Fonda
Steve Boedecker,
Vice President – Rockwell City
Jason McKenney,
Secretary – Somers
Ron Hanson,
Treasurer – Pomeroy
Duane Beschorner – Lohrville
Darcy Maulsby – Lake City
Joe Parker – Lohrville
Keaton Hildreth, CEO



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