



FEBRUARY DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

District 2 – Ron Hanson



Ron has been a member of Calhoun County ECA since 1992 and represents District 2 on CCECA's Board of Directors. He currently holds the Treasurer's position and has served on the Board for 11 years. Ron is retired from farming and resides with his wife, Sharon, in Pomeroy.

As a director for CCECA, Ron has completed the Certified Cooperative

Director (CCD), Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and Director Gold Programs. To achieve these milestones, Director Hanson has put in countless hours of continuing education that range from equity management and financial decision making, to cooperative communications and strategic technologies. Ron continues to show his dedication to the cooperative by participating in on-going educational opportunities, understanding his role and responsibilities as a director, and staying up to date with the electrical industry trends and issues.

We recently asked Ron to answer three questions regarding our cooperative and the electrical industry. We hope you enjoy reading his thoughts as much as we did.

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

Being elected on the Board of directors 11 years ago has been one of the more rewarding things I have ever experienced. I had no idea of the complexity of the electric industry. Being one

of the smaller coops in the state of Iowa, and only having two plus meters per mile of line is a challenge to provide reliable affordable electricity for you the people on our line. You quickly learn that this organization is very much needed for the rural area that we live in, and the goodwill we as a coop provide to the community.

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

Elected officials that we have in office today somehow think we can electrify the country with green energy (wind and solar). Coal and natural gas are going to be a must in the future to keep up with the explosive industry that we are facing. Another trend in the industry, and we as your local coop are not exempt from cybersecurity. We as directors have implemented a number of safeguards suggested by your CEO to protect your coop which all comes at a price.

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

As an elected board member of your coop, I appreciate the willingness of your coop to continue to provide continuous education (which does come at a cost) to the board members to keep up with the ever changing challenges that face our industry today. Our linemen and office staff at your coop are like a family, they work every day to make sure that when you flip the switch the lights will come on. If you see them out and around tell them thank you for everything they do.

In closing, thank you to the members in district two for electing me to represent you on your board of directors.

Cooperatives Speak with Legislators in Fort Dodge

On December 20, 2023, local Cooperatives including CCECA had the opportunity to meet with local legislators to discuss issues facing electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. Meetings such as the Legislative Breakfast in Fort Dodge allow us the opportunity to advocate the Cooperative's position on issues that could affect our member owners.

Pictured Left to Right: CEO Keaton Hildreth, Director Ron Hanson, Representative Mike Sexton, and Director Steve Boedecker.



The Good Kind of Audit

Provided by:

Richard Hall – Manager of Member Services & IT



Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money. As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings

and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why Calhoun County ECA offers free home and business energy audits.

An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer. You could say this is a good kind of audit.

So, what does an energy audit look like? First, our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home or business, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use such as doors, windows, and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances including your heating and cooling system and conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

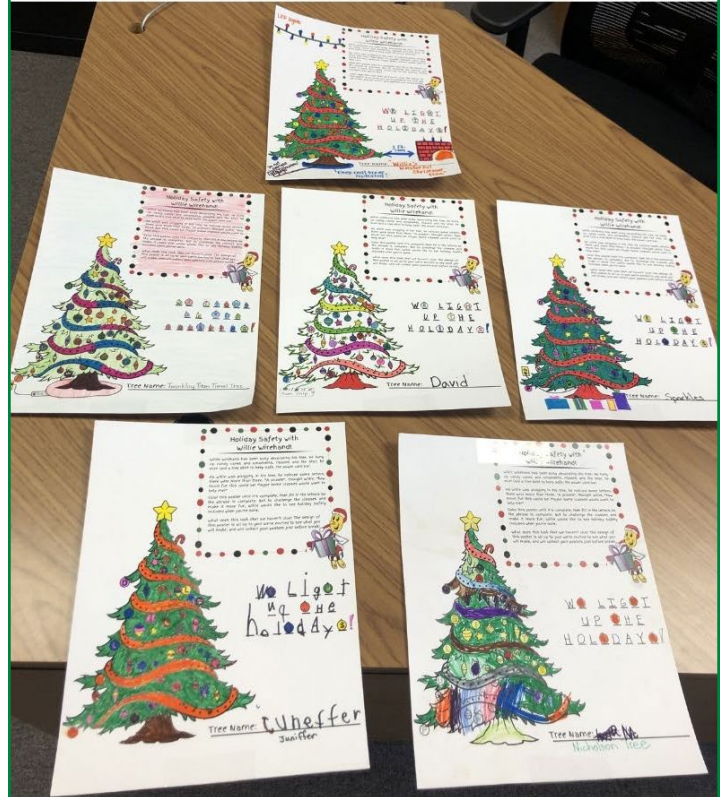
In the testing phase, the advisor could evaluate the seal of your home by conducting a blower door test to identify the source of any air leaks or drafts. The advisor will also conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging can reveal inadequate insulation levels, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction and additional key factors.

Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation. This is a written report with a description of your home, an analysis of your energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money.

Want to request an Energy Audit for your home? CCECA makes this process easy. Start by calling our

CCECA NEWS

Holiday COLORING Contest



Calhoun County ECA challenged South Central Calhoun's Elementary classes in a holiday coloring contest. To accompany our festive Christmas tree, students were tasked with not only decoding our secret message, but they also had to provide Willie Wirehand with a coloring page that reflected holiday safety. In total, five classrooms participated in the holiday fun. The posters were judged by Calhoun County ECA based on creativity, safety focus, and use of space/completeness of the poster. A first, second, and third place poster was identified from the five submitted, and Calhoun County ECA provided these three classrooms with a pre-paid gift card that the classrooms can use to support their learning in 2024. Thank you to all of the classrooms that participated in our holiday fun!

office at 712-297-7112. We will take your information and help schedule you for a home energy audit with our trained energy advisor. One of the many values we can provide for our members is helping you understand how you use electricity and more importantly, identifying ways you can use it more efficiently.

How Extreme Winter Weather Impacts Reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Calhoun County ECA, we work closely with our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand

to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and Calhoun County ECA will inform you about the situation.

Calhoun County ECA and our G&T take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



BEST BETS FOR

Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



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

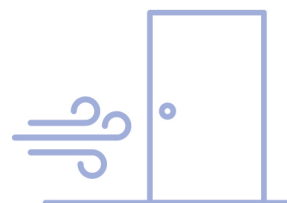


MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

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

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



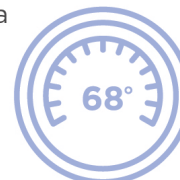
USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



2023 Operations by the Numbers

After another successful year of construction and maintenance on Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's 758 miles of line, our line crew can be proud of the progress they've made to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable power for all of our members.

In 2023, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative rebuilt 8.7 miles of line and completed 138 system improvements.

Bret McAlister | Line Superintendent



13 NEW SERVICES ADDED

3 NEW HOMES

2 GRAIN BINS

8 MACHINE SHEDS



1. Name one thing you can do to help the power grid this winter. _____

2. Where did the 2023 Legislative Breakfast take place? _____

3. How can you request a home or business Energy Audit? _____

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.** 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 March 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 \$100.00 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

Congratulations December winners:

Sheila Cline, Lauri McIntire, and Ron & Lori Prince

Reach Us

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(Mon-Fri)

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