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Guthrie County REC  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

FEBRUARY 2018

High school seniors: It's time to apply for 2018 Guthrie County REC scholarships ▶ See page 4



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OF THE YOUTH TOUR

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Guthrie County REC  
holds 80<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Meeting

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

# Co-op holds 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Thank you to all our cooperative members who joined us on a cold January day to take part in the Guthrie County REC 80th Annual Meeting, which was held Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Lake Panorama Conference Center. The meeting was attended by 177 members and guests.

Board president Don Schwartz opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m., following a free member lunch. Pastor Denis James with the First Christian and First Presbyterian Churches in Guthrie Center conducted the invocation. Schwartz then introduced his fellow Guthrie County REC board members, as well as former director Dave McCool, former general manager Frank Mains, special guests Steve Seidl and Darrell Jensen from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, CIPCO vice president of planning and growth strategies Dusky Terry and attorney John Ward from Sullivan & Ward, P.C., who announced that incumbent directors Marcel Fett (District 7), Andrew Van Aernam (District 8) and Joni Rees (District 9) were reelected. ⚡



Members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting included (front row, from left) Julie Kiley, CEO Cozy Nelsen and Joni Rees; (back row, from left) Don Schwartz, Bob Batschelet, Marcel Fett, Andrew Van Aernam, Keith Peterson and Steve Bireline.



Board vice president Steve Bireline thanked all employees in attendance for their service. They were (from left) Elden Wolfe, Marlene Chalfant, Lori Hix, Dea Kress, Rebecca Schwartz, Cozy Nelsen, Darwin Marean and Doug Downing. Bireline also recognized Marean for his 25 years of service to the co-op.



Members attending the meeting received a picnic blanket as a thank you gift. The winner of the grand prize – a MECO electric cart grill – was Dennis Shepherd (top). Other winners were Nate Van Zee (center) – 24-inch TV/DVD and Wanda (Sue) Shackelford – \$50 cash.

STUDENT LEADERS

## High school seniors: It's time to apply for 2018 Guthrie County REC scholarships

Guthrie County REC is pleased to be able to offer scholarships to graduating high school seniors in order to assist them with their continuing education. It's part of the foundation upon which cooperatives like ours were built.

Guthrie County REC will award three \$1,000 scholarships to individuals enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school for the 2018-2019 school year. High school seniors in the Guthrie County REC service territory who are interested in continuing their education in any field

of study – or a power line program – are invited to apply for a 2018 scholarship. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or legal immigrants in a power line program or members of Guthrie County REC.

Applications must be postmarked on or before **April 6, 2018**. Winners will be posted at Guthrie County REC offices by **May 4, 2018**. Due to the volume of applications, only students awarded a scholarship will be notified.

Visit [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop) for more information and to download an application. ⚡





**Guthrie County REC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Here's Guthrie County REC's recipe for success

*Note: The following remarks were taken from the speech presented by CEO Cozy Nelsen during the Guthrie County REC Annual Meeting.*

I thought it would be appropriate to recognize and give each of you Guthrie County REC's recipe for success.

Let's begin with the main ingredients needed for this recipe:

- Nine knowledgeable, motivated directors as stewards of your membership;
- One CEO who faces the challenges of the electric industry;
- Carefully chosen resources, including 17 dedicated employees and an inspirational annual meeting with 177 members and guests in attendance;
- A cooperative spirit and mindset for all; and
- A focus on the members.

Next, we must follow the directions for this recipe carefully, and success will surely follow. Guthrie County REC begins by "whipping in" four big ideas:

1. All members can and should expect reliable power;
2. All members can and should expect affordable power;
3. The cooperative will meet those expectations while keeping employees and the public safe; and
4. The cooperative is environmentally aware.



Then, Guthrie County REC "folds in" fairness. Governance on the basis of one member, one vote promotes the consensus that improves board representation of membership interests.

Guthrie County REC "layers in" member involvement. Examples of members being involved with your cooperative include serving on the nominating committee,

being featured in an REC ad, attending annual meetings or simply having a conversation with us. Your involvement creates more layers resulting in a transparent and successful REC.

Your cooperative generously "sprinkles in" patronage checks. One sign of our success is in the return of your retained equity. How exciting that our members received a check in December!

Finally, with established, productive monthly board and safety meetings, the REC must nurture and build upon the successes we have achieved.

And, what may you ask does this recipe yield? It yields being able to successfully provide you, our members, with power that is safe, reliable and environmentally responsible. At Guthrie County REC, we realize this recipe requires all of us working together in order to achieve the best results. That's how we define our "recipe for success." 🌱

## Guthrie County REC welcomes back state legislators

Guthrie County REC was pleased last month to join fellow Iowa electric cooperatives in welcoming back our state legislators for the 2018 session. More than 150 cooperative representatives attended the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception Jan. 9 in Des Moines. Among the honored guests were Gov. Kim Reynolds; Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg; Speaker of the House Linda Upmeyer; Reps. Jerry Kearns, Skyler Wheeler, Greg Heartsill and Joel Fry; and Sens. Amy Sinclair and Amanda Ragan.

"This annual event helps us get our message in front of lawmakers and reminds them of the good work electric cooperatives do across the state of Iowa," said GCREC board director Julie Kiley, who attended the reception. "We also had a chance to talk and network with other electric cooperative representatives."

Important issues for the electric cooperatives this session include:

- **Investment in renewable energy.** Iowa's electric co-ops support state tax credits that promote and incentivize utility-scale renewable energy projects.
- **Workforce readiness.** Electric co-ops support Future Ready Iowa, an initiative to build Iowa's talent pipeline for today's (and future) jobs.
- **Safety and reliability.** Electric co-ops support the establishment of uniform standards that avoid confusion and provide co-ops the authority to trim trees while in a private right-of-way where an easement hasn't been recorded. 🌱

## Win a soil-free indoor garden!

If you have an extra foot or so of counter space in your kitchen, you have enough room for a soil-free Miracle-Gro AeroGarden to grow fresh herbs, lettuce and other greens – plus you can start your favorite veggies or flowers for spring planting. The \$200 Classic 7 AeroGarden we're giving away this month includes an energy-efficient LED grow light, nutrient mix and a selection of seven seed pods for gourmet herbs. Visit [aerogarden.com](http://aerogarden.com) for more details.

Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) to enter the contest no later than Feb. 28, 2018. 🌱



# Why should you insulate your water pipes?

Already this year, our homes have been put to the test, as this winter has been one of the coldest in recent memory. Now more than ever, it's important to make sure your home is as efficient as possible to help keep your electric bills down. Part of doing that is making sure your water pipes are insulated properly.

The good news is that insulating both hot and cold water pipes is fairly simple and inexpensive using products readily available on the market today. There are many good reasons to protect them. Insulation stops cold water pipes from sweating when moisture in the air condenses on their cold surfaces and drips in problem areas. For hot water pipes, it prevents hot water from losing heat as it flows through the pipes. Also, insulation helps ensure that pipes running through unheated crawl spaces won't freeze and burst in winter's chill.

According to do-it-yourself home improvement author Ron Hazelton, here are a few tips for completing this simple project yourself:

- At your local home improvement store, look for pre-slit polyethylene insulation that is both inexpensive and easy to install. Lay it over the pipe, and peel back the protective covering at the slit. Align the edges and press the self-sealing adhesive strips together.
- Provide a higher insulation value by using flexible elastomeric insulation. Look for a product that has an antimicrobial compound that protects against mold. Most tubular insulation products offer easy installation, because you can cut the ends to join them to make a corner on a variety of pipe configurations.
- Consider using fiberglass insulation jackets wrapped in a vapor barrier when you're protecting straight piping runs. These products are rigid and don't bend easily. Additionally, their exterior surfaces can be painted with latex paint to dress up



Here's a simple test to help you see how much energy and water can be wasted – literally going down the drain – while you wait for hot water to reach a sink or shower. Carefully check the pipes coming out of the top of your water heater to determine which one is the hot water outlet. (Be careful – if the hot water pipe is too hot to hold, your water heater may be wasting energy because its water temperature is set higher than 120 degrees.) Follow the hot water pipes that branch off to see how far they stay warm. Insulating these hot water pipes will help reduce heat losses as the hot water flows to your faucet or showerhead, and it will help minimize standby heat losses when the tap is turned on more than once an hour. Even with insulated pipes, the water eventually will cool – but the water will stay warmer longer, and your water heater should cycle less often than it would if the pipes weren't insulated.

exposed pipes running through a finished basement.

- Choose reinforced foam insulating tape to insulate pipes with several tightly spaced bends. Slightly overlap the tape in spirals as you wrap it around the pipe. The

adhesive on the back will hold it secure as you squeeze it to make it conform to the bends.

Overall, your expense and your time completing the project will be worth it to save a few extra bucks on your electric water heating energy use. ⚡

## Our Commitment is to Your Community



Guthrie County REC Board Member Joni Rees



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