



# Guthrie County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# 2025 REFLECTIONS

As we turn the page to a new year, I'm reminded once again what a privilege it is to serve the members of Guthrie County REC. Each year brings its own challenges and triumphs, but one thing never changes: the strength, resilience, and generosity of the communities we serve here in rural Iowa.

Our scholarship program makes a real difference for local students pursuing their dreams beyond high school. Adam Obrecht, Audubon High School; Arilyan Steenblock, Panorama High School; and Gavin Sloss, AC/GC High School, each received financial support from our cooperative in 2025. We wish them well as they pursue their educational goals.

In 2025, we also sponsored one area high school student on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour—an opportunity that introduces them to the wider world of public policy, leadership, and the cooperative

spirit. Annabelle Baggett spent a week in Washington, D.C., exploring the sites, meeting with leaders, and learning more about how cooperatives serve their members. We hope the skills she gained from the experience will serve her well into the future.

In 2025, we focused on maintaining and improving the infrastructure that keeps our communities connected. Growth across our service territory continued, and with it came the need for expanded capacity and upgraded equipment. Whether we installed new line, replaced aging poles, or integrated smarter technology into our system, our goal remains the same: deliver safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to every member who depends on us. We know how essential power is to daily life, to business, and to the future of our rural economy, and we take that responsibility seriously.



**COZY NELSEN**  
CEO

2025 also brought a shift in the political landscape and with it, a shift in the policies and regulations affecting our industry. We kept a close eye on these changes and used our voices to advocate on behalf of our cooperative members at both the state and federal levels.

As we step into the new year, I'm filled with gratitude—for our employees who work in all conditions to keep the lights on, for our board members who guide us with steady leadership, and for you, our members, who have placed your trust in us for the power you need every day.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association will be held at the Guthrie County Event Center at the Fairgrounds in Guthrie Center, Iowa, on January 3, 2026, to take action upon the following matters:

1. Receive the written reports of officers, directors, and committees;
2. The election of three (3) directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each;
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or

any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for Director by the Committee on Nominations appointed by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws.

THREE-YEAR TERM (Three to be elected)

District No. 4: Michael Moore\*

District No. 5: Don Schwartz\*

District No. 6: Steve Bireline\*

\*Denotes incumbent

We encourage you to complete the ballot if you have a candidate running in your District and return it in accordance with instructions that accompany the ballot. We encourage you to exercise your rights as a member and vote. Please contact the Cooperative if you have any questions. The election results will be published on the Cooperative's website and in the newsletter following the meeting.

Dated this 1st day of December, 2025

Secretary

## BALANCE SHEET - ASSETS

Audited financials as of December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$43,959,442	\$40,661,142
Construction Work in Progress	907,852	554,447
Total Utility Plant	44,867,293	41,215,589
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation & Amortization	18,496,742	18,217,876
Net Utility Plant	26,370,552	22,997,714
Total Other Property & Investments	6,091,852	5,499,335
Cash	283,266	282,562
Temporary Investments	1,520,237	821,000
Accounts Receivable	1,437,329	949,668
Materials & Supplies - Electric & Other	1,182,838	1,044,150
Prepayments	108,431	113,013
Other Current & Accrued Assets	1,484	4,388
Total Current & Accrued Assets	4,533,585	3,214,781
Other Deferred Debts	150,773	125,639
<b>Total Assets &amp; Other Debts</b>	<b>\$37,146,761</b>	<b>\$31,837,469</b>

## BALANCE SHEET - LIABILITIES

	2024	2023
Memberships	\$2,670	\$2,670
Patronage Capital	5,997,115	5,453,416
Operating & Non Operating Margins	983,757	732,792
Other Margins & Equities	9,685,516	9,449,592
Total Margins & Equities	16,669,058	15,638,470
Long-term Debt - RUS	6,591,626	6,875,049
Long-term Debt - Other	11,785,909	7,262,535
Long-term Debt - RUS Econ. Dev. (Net)	580,000	580,000
Total Long-term Debt	18,957,535	14,717,584
Accounts Payable	929,446	871,541
Consumer Deposits	51,859	48,465
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	497,979	512,038
Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	1,479,284	1,432,044
Other Deferred Credits	40,884	49,371
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Other Credits</b>	<b>\$37,146,761</b>	<b>\$31,837,469</b>

## 2026 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

### Saturday, January 3, 2026

Guthrie County Event Center,  
Guthrie Co. Fairgrounds in  
Guthrie Center  
11 a.m.  
Registration opens

11:30 a.m.  
Free meal

12:30 p.m.  
Call to Order  
Invocation  
Welcome  
Business Session

Board President's Remarks  
Chief Executive Officer's Remarks  
Recognition of Staff Service  
Anniversaries  
Drawing for Door Prizes  
Adjourn



Carrie and Scott Bird of Panora won a \$25 gift certificate at the 2025 Guthrie County REC Annual Meeting.

# OPERATING STATEMENT

Audited financials as of December 31, 2024

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$15,706,006	\$15,767,638
Cost of Purchased Power	\$10,900,140	\$10,957,416
Distribution Expense - Operation	1,390,690	1,524,978
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	205,562	204,507
Customer Account Expense	216,353	203,528
Customer Service & Informational Expense	236,226	229,299
Administrative & General Expense	1,193,223	1,081,641
Total Operation & Maintenance Expense	\$14,142,193	\$14,201,369

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	\$1,295,231	\$1,321,534
Tax Expense - Other	(13,657)	10,375
Interest on Long-Term Debt	704,678	614,875
Other Deductions	179	356
<b>Total Cost of Electric Service</b>	<b>\$16,092,624</b>	<b>\$16,148,509</b>
<b>Patronage Capital &amp; Operating Margins</b>	<b>(386,618)</b>	<b>(380,871)</b>

Non Operating Margins - Interest	\$117,218	\$138,288
Non Operating Margins - Other	169,420	89,615
Generation & Transmission Capital Credits	919,567	794,620
Other Capital Credits & Patronage Dividends	164,171	91,140
Extraordinary Items	0	0
<b>Patronage Capital or Margins</b>	<b>\$983,757</b>	<b>\$732,792</b>

<b>kWh Sales</b>	<b>kWh Purchases</b>	<b>Line Loss*</b>
2023: 180,344,379	2023: 186,383,691	2023: 0.052577
2024: 178,554,506	2024: 184,907,879	2024: 0.055877

<b>Avg. Monthly kWh Residential Usage</b>	<b>Miles of Energized Line</b>	<b>Number of Meters</b>
2023: 1,337 kWh	2023: 1,411	2023: 5,137
2024: 1,505 kWh	2024: 1,412	2024: 5,167

\*Figures do not include POET Bioprocessing

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

...from page 5

### COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Following blizzards across Iowa in March, Guthrie County REC linemen Brian Marso, Todd Tinken, Jordan Terwilliger, and Jeff Eagle traveled to Western Iowa Power Cooperative in Denison for five days to provide mutual aid in power restoration, damage and cleanup. ▼



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Guthrie County REC contributed a \$200,000 matching USDA revolving loan fund to Raccoon Valley Radio to transition to new ownership under John and Jen McGee. The financing package included funds from Minburn Communications and a small business loan facilitated by a local bank. ▼



## JANUARY 4, 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association was held at the Guthrie County Event Center, Guthrie County Fairgrounds, Guthrie Center, Iowa beginning at 12:36 P.M. on the 4th day of January, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Steve Bireline, President of the Cooperative, who presided. Julie Kiley, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

Guthrie County District 5 Director Don Schwartz offered an invocation. The Chairman thanked the Litterdale Catering for the meal.

The Chairman stated that the members who had registered at the door had been checked, and that a quorum was present for the transaction of business. A motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the registration in lieu of a roll call. A list of the members who registered in attendance at the meeting is filed at the Cooperative.

The Chairman of the Cooperative offered to have the secretary read a copy of the Notice of the Meeting together with proof of the due mailing thereof. A motion was duly made, seconded and carried to waive the reading. Copies of the Notice and proof of mailing are kept at the Cooperative.

The Chairman asked Attorney Dennis L. Puckett to address the election of Directors. Mr. Puckett stated that the next order of business was the election of three Directors for a term of three years each. Mr. Puckett reported that in accordance with the By-Laws, the Board of Directors had appointed from the members of the Cooperative a Nominating Committee. The members of the Nominating Committee were:

Jill Burkhart, Julie Spellman, Beth Griffin, John Masmar, Dennis Van Pelt, Marc VanHouten, Bob Botschelet, Ruth Rowweder and Doug Eckley. A motion was then made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as distributed. The minutes were declared

The Report of the Nominating Committee was then presented, nominating the following members for Directors:

**THREE-YEAR TERM**  
(Three to be Elected)

District No. 1 Julie Kiley  
District No. 2 Jim Mazour  
District No. 3 Ronny Bristle

The Report of the Nominating Committee was ordered to be identified by the Secretary and annexed to the minutes of the meeting. Attorney Puckett noted that there were no nominations by petition.

The balloting process was explained. In light of the fact there were only 3 candidates for the 3 positions, a motion was made, seconded and carried to direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the three nominees.

Attorney Puckett then declared the following individuals had been elected for a term of three years and until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified:

**THREE-YEAR TERM**

District No. 1 Julie Kiley  
District No. 2 Jim Mazour  
District No. 3 Ronny Bristle

The Chairman then introduced the Directors.

Vice President Joni Rees introduced special guests, retired employees and retired Directors in attendance. She also introduced all current employees. Rebecca Schwartz was recognized for ten (10) years of service and Lori Hix for thirty (30) years of service.

The Chairman then offered to have the secretary read the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members held January 6, 2024. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the reading of the minutes was waived. A motion was then made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as distributed. The minutes were declared

approved and the Secretary was directed to file them in the records of the Cooperative.

The annual report of the Treasurer was then presented by Julie Kiley. Following presentation, a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the report. The report was directed to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

A report of General Manager Cozy Nelsen was presented. She reported on the operations and financial performance of the Cooperative during the past year. She also noted that with negative operating margins in 2023 and 2024, it was time to consider a rate increase. A cost of service study has been done and the Board is continuing its evaluation. This will be the first general rate increase since 2001. Following presentation, the report was directed to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

Directors Jason Fett and Julie Kiley noted the process of selecting an individual to attend the youth tour. They then introduced Lucas Obert who was the Cooperative's selected student. Lucas then gave a presentation regarding his trip and the things he learned. He thanked the Cooperative for sponsoring him for the trip. He has been selected as Iowa's representative to the national meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Director Joni Rees introduced Kathleen Deal and Dave McCool, who attended youth tour in 1971 and reflected on their experiences.

The Annual Report of the President was presented by Steve Bireline and the report was directed to be filed in the records of the Cooperative. He also serves on the CIPCO board and included a report on the power supplier. Included in his report was a report on the impact of the tornado that went through Greenfield, Iowa.

Prizes were awarded by lot.

# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## SERVICE

- Built 19.9 miles of overhead line to improve the reliability of the power you receive from Guthrie County REC.
- Added 44 new services.
- Finished installing underground line at the third Wambold addition in Stuart which will allow 42 more residential lots.
- Replaced rotten poles that were flagged by our contractor.

## EQUIPMENT

- Acquired a new wire trailer from Rice Trailer Co. for line work as earmarked in the 2025 capital budget.
- Acquired a new basket truck from Altec for line work as earmarked in the 2022 capital budget and a new digger truck from Altec for line work as earmarked in the 2023 capital budget. Delivery times for trucks can be up to five years after ordering.

## GROWTH

- Finished construction and energized the new Mockingbird substation near Hamlin and continued construction projects at the Perry Industrial Park. These projects add power and reliability to support business expansions in both areas of our service territory.
- Installed new regulators at the Panora and Woodward substations. Regulators help keep the voltage within the desired range for

members who are served by that feeder.

- Serviced line breakers, which are safety devices to help prevent equipment damage, fires, and other hazards when an electrical fault occurs.

## COMMUNITY

- Guthrie County REC awarded \$3,000 in college scholarships to three deserving students in the AC/GC, Audubon, and Panorama school districts whose parents are co-op members.
- Marlene Chalfant, Jeremy Gruber, and Brian Marso participated in the Guthrie County ISU Extension and Outreach's STEM Fest in March. Students were invited to learn more about electricity and had an



*Lineman Jeff Eagle provides a live line demonstration to area students during the Audubon Community Schools Farm Safety Day.*

opportunity to wear virtual reality headsets to experience a lineman's view firsthand.

- Loyd Hise participated in Farm Safety Day through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Roughly 200 third graders from AC/GC, CR-B, Panorama, and WCV attend the event every May to learn about electrical safety, how to stay safe around grain bins, tractor and ATV safety and proper sun protection.

- Loyd Hise and Jeff Eagle participated in Audubon County Farm Bureau's Fourth Grade Ag Day in September and talked with students about what linemen do to deliver electricity safely. Students saw a live wire demonstration and learned how linemen use their gear and tools to work safely.

- Jeff Eagle and Carter Drake talked with area high school students during Audubon County Economic Development Career Day in October about what it takes to be a lineman. Teaching opportunities allow our linemen to demonstrate their job, talk about schooling and training, teach electrical safety practices, and educate students about the electric cooperative.

- Sponsored Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton sophomore Annabelle Baggett on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., in June allows students to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government, and explore the sights around the nation's capital.



*Lineman Jeff Eagle speaks with students about the work and education required of a lineman during Audubon Career Day.*

- Supported local students in Central Iowa Student Anglers with a \$500 donation.
- Supported the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central SW Iowa with a \$250 donation which supports after school and summer youth programs.

## FINANCIAL

- The Guthrie County REC Board of Directors allocated \$983,757.46 of the 2024 margin to GCREC members. The margin is divided into four categories: reserve for contingency losses and expenses, statutory surplus, education reserve, and patronage dividends. The sum of \$983,757.46 was allocated to deferred patronage dividends.
- The Board of Directors approved a pay out of dividends totaling \$692,733.99 to members who received electric service in 2013 (partial), 2015 (partial), and 2024 (partial).

*continued on pg. 5*

# LEADERSHIP



The Guthrie County REC Board of Directors are elected by and from our membership and represent the portion of our service territory in which they live. They provide guidance on business matters, establish co-op goals, continually seek opportunities for leadership education and much more.

Standing, from left: **Don Schwartz**, District 5; **Michael Moore**, District 4; **Jason Fett**, District 7; **Andrew Van Aernam**, District 9; and **Steve Bireline\***, President, District 6.

Seated, from left: **Ronny Bristle**, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer, District 3; **Cozy Nelsen**, CEO; **Julie Kiley**, Secretary/Treasurer, District 1; **Joni Rees**, Vice President, District 8; and **Jim Mazour**, District 2.

*\*Board president Steve Bireline also serves on the board of Central Iowa Power Cooperative, the power supplier for Guthrie County REC. In this role, Steve represents the cooperative's interests in both financial and member matters.*



*CEO Cozy Nelsen and Board President Steve Bireline were among the Iowa co-op representatives who attended the annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. While there, they met with leaders to discuss issues that impact REC members. These face-to-face meetings ensure cooperative voices are heard at the national level.*

