

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

OCTOBER 2018

GCREC members will receive capital credits for 2017 ▶ See Page 12

## Celebrating National Co-op Month



Visit our website at [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)

Keep your home  
warm without  
turning up the heat

Linemen training  
program

Vote for these  
election night recipes



# Happy National Cooperative Month!

BY COZY NELSEN, CEO



I love this transformative time of year: the weather is changing, the leaves are turning color, the kids are adjusting to being back in

school, and we're starting to dream of the holidays that are right around the corner. One thing that doesn't change, however, is celebrating the cooperative way each October as part of National Cooperative Month. And, it gives me a chance to remind our members what we're all about.

By design, not-for-profit electric cooperatives like Guthrie County REC are structured to be accountable, transparent and locally responsive to the communities we serve. Cooperatives are locally governed with an elected board that actively participates in setting policies and making decisions. This local business structure has been at the heart of Guthrie County REC since the beginning. And,

since the beginning, we've been committed to following seven cooperative principles which serve as a foundation for all electric cooperatives:

## 1. Voluntary and Open

**Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## 2. Democratic Member Control:

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

## 3. Members' Economic

**Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

## 4. Autonomy and Independence:

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital

from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

## 5. Education, Training, and

**Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

## 6. Cooperation Among

**Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## 7. Concern for Community:

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

With these principles in mind, take a minute to think about what being a member of a cooperative means to you. Share your thoughts on social media using #coopmonth. ⚡



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



**Office**  
1406 State Street - P.O. Box 7  
Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007

**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Telephone Number**  
641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206  
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Website**  
[www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## OFFICE CLOSING

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Monday, Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans Day; and Thursday, Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**



Guthrie County REC congratulates the AC/GC Community School District for updating the Adair-Casey Junior High to energy efficient lighting and saving \$10,259 in efficiency rebates! Pictured left to right: Principal Cynthia Jensen, Custodian Dave Farley, Business Manager Theresa Elgin, GCREC Member Service Clerk Marlene Chalfant and Superintendent Steve Smith.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

# Donation helps Guthrie Activity Center with updates

A downtown staple in Guthrie Center is getting a makeover with the help of a donation from Guthrie County REC.

In August, GCREC partnered with CoBank, through the CoBank Sharing Success Program, to present a check to the Guthrie Activity Center for \$2,000. The Guthrie Activity Center has received significant donations toward improving the structural integrity of the building, adding LED indoor lighting, and updating the insulation and HVAC system to improve energy efficiency. New donations are being used for interior updates, including new carpet, additional conference rooms and technology upgrades.

“The activity center is a great gathering space for all occasions and Guthrie County REC is proud to support this community effort to ensure the activity center will continue to serve the residents of Guthrie



Cozy Nelsen presents a check to Dennis Flanery.

County,” said Cozy Nelsen, Guthrie County REC CEO.

“The Guthrie Activity Center greatly appreciates Guthrie County REC’s contribution to help fund these updates. The facility is used by numerous groups and people in the area, and contributions like this will ensure the building is available to the community for years to come,” said Dennis Flanery, Guthrie Activity Center Board President. ⚡

**EDITOR’S CHOICE CONTEST**

## Just in time for Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is right around the corner! Just in time for the feast, we’re giving away a Masterbuilt Butterball XXL Digital Control Indoor Electric Turkey Fryer! You can fry using oil, or boil and steam with water. The suggested retail price is approximately \$240. For details go to [www.amazon.com/Butterball-Digital-Indoor-Electric-Turkey/dp/B00OU6JZ9M](http://www.amazon.com/Butterball-Digital-Indoor-Electric-Turkey/dp/B00OU6JZ9M).

Enter the contest by visiting the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than Oct. 31, 2018. ⚡



**EXTEND A HELPING HAND!**

## Help us find these missing members

Below is a continuation of the list from last month’s newsletter. If you see your name or have information on the whereabouts of anyone on this list, please contact Guthrie County REC so we can forward the capital credits payment. ⚡

- N**  
Nelson, Michael A. or Kyle  
Neus, Jason D.  
Nevins, Ken  
Norman, Lee  
Northrup, Charles R.  
Nourse, Eelyn J.
- O**  
Olsen, Kevin or Kris  
Onnen, Shelley L. or Boyd  
Osborne, Dean E. or Kathleen  
Oxley, Dale E.
- P**  
Patrick, Ron D.  
Pauk, Mike K.  
Perry, Bryan M.  
Petersen, Dennis L. or Susan Drake Petersen  
Petersen, Edna M.  
Petersen, Richard  
Petersen, Steven D.  
Phillips, Gilbert T. or Joan  
Picray, Steve M. or Kim  
Pieper, Alene F.  
Plummer, James A.
- R**  
Ramquist, Shelly  
Ristig, Bernard or Milissa  
Rose Sr., Alfred G.  
Rosenquist, Richard L. or Joan R.  
Rottler, Joen M. or Gary W.  
Rude, Larry H.  
Russell, James A.  
Russell, Kenneth R.
- S**  
Schrack, Jr., Donald D.  
Schultes, Randy R.  
Scott, Rodney A. or Shelly D.  
Scott, Rodney D.  
Sharon, Bernard W. or Bonnie  
Sharp, Albert  
Shirley, Alma  
Smith, Gary E. or Twyla  
Smith, Kevin D. or Jill S.  
Smith, Nick  
Smith, William A. or SueEllen  
Smotherman, Troy A.  
Sonntag, Becky J.  
Sorber, Chad R. or Audra
- Spence, Susan J. or Jeffrey  
Stat Properties LLC  
Stegman, Joseph E. or Deborah K.  
Stenstrom, Edward II  
Stewart, Allen G.  
Stokely, Robert A.  
Strain, Roger D. or Jill K.  
Sundquist, Roberta  
Swift, Dan D.
- T**  
Talbot, John W.  
Taylor, Jeff M. or Sarah R.  
Taylor, Ronald L. or Rebecca S.  
Thomas, Rick or Ruth  
Thompson, Otis Lyle  
Thompson, Sara L. or Chris Thompson  
Thompson, Sean W.  
Thorn, David A.  
Ticknor, Allen  
Toft, Donald F. or Donna  
Tri State Outdoor Media Group, Inc.
- U**  
Uken, Henry D.
- V**  
Van Brunt, Karl  
Ventura, Fabiola E.
- W**  
Waffle, Elbert  
Wagner, Susan  
Walter, Carol A.  
Waltz, Merrijean  
Wambold, John c/o Janet V. McGowan, POA  
Wang, David or Chunyan  
Webb Michelle  
Wells-Ball, Kim B. or Dave Selim  
White, Gilbert or Dorothy  
Whitney, Terry J. or Louise  
Wilkinson, David  
Wilson, Bill or Dawn  
Wolfe, Jackie J.  
Wright, William A.
- Y**  
Young, Dennis E. or Suna Bayrakal L.



LIGHT THE WAY

# Shine a light on safety and security

As the days grow shorter and the hours of darkness grow longer, many Guthrie County REC members take advantage of the cooperative's security light program. We now offer more efficient LED lights – a 73-watt LED light is \$150 plus tax, minus a \$40 rebate.

Outdoor lighting on rural properties is one of the most cost-effective deterrents to theft. It also helps you stay productive as the outside light fades. Call Guthrie County REC at (888) 747-2206 to find out what kind of lighting is best for your property, or visit [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop) and look under the "Member Services" tab.



SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

GUTHRIE COUNTY REC ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 5, 2019

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

# Guthrie County REC Members will receive capital credits for 2017

At its Aug. 21 meeting, the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors voted unanimously to allocate \$1,319,364.67 of the 2017 margin into the patronage account to GCREC members.

As a member, you should have received a postcard from the cooperative stating your individual allocation amount. Please call (888) 747-2206 with any questions.

At the end of each operational year, capital credits are allocated based on the margins (profit) achieved in a given year and then pro-rated among GCREC members based on the amount of energy each member contributed in purchasing electric service.

The margin is divided into four categories: patronage, reserve for contingency losses and expenses, statutory surplus and education reserve. This year, the board voted to distribute the margin to reserve



for contingency losses and expenses, statutory surplus and patronage.

The allocation of capital credits is merely a notification to a cooperative member that the cooperative realized a margin (profit) for the fiscal year 2017 and, in accordance with its bylaws, is allocating a pro-rata share of the margin to members based on kilowatt-hour usage. ⚡

## Thank you, pork producers! October is National Pork Month



Guthrie County REC  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

1406 State Street, Guthrie Center  
641-747-2206 • 888-747-2206  
[www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)