



TIPS From T.I.P.

Published By The T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative
OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

March 2021

Brooklyn, Iowa

Scholarships Available Helping to Build a Brighter Future for College Bound Students



T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative takes pride in helping develop leaders in the communities we serve so this year we started a scholarship program to recognize academic and community achievements made by young adults. These scholarships are

considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative will be accepting scholarship applications from graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are members of T.I.P. REC.

We will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to each school district in our service territory. Recipients will be selected on the basis of academic record, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, an essay on why you feel electric cooperatives are important and a reference letter.

Scholarships will be distributed to the student payable to the college they are attending and to the student.

You can find more information and the application at www.tiprec.com or contact your High School guidance counselor. If you have any questions, give us a call at (800) 934-7976.

The application deadline is April 16, 2021, and the scholarships will be awarded in May.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Quantum Plastics Receives Rebate Check



Pictured above from left to right: Nick Bral, Quantum Plastics Maintenance Manager, Scott Pope, Quantum Plastics General Manager, Dean Huls, General Manager, and Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service.

Quantum Plastics representatives are pictured above receiving a rebate check in the amount of \$45,000 for a commercial lighting rebate.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank them for updating the lighting in their facility to energy efficient lighting.

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1st

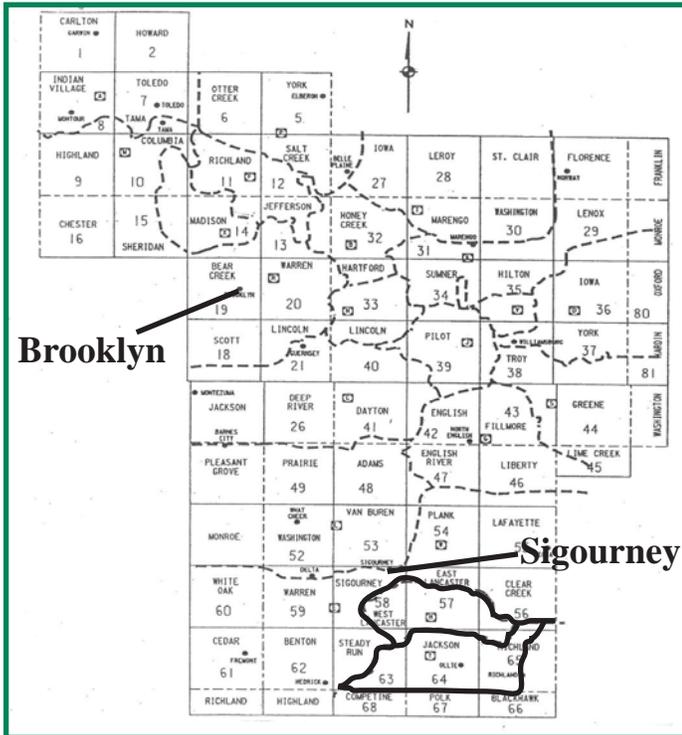
FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE ON ENERGY ASSISTANCE and have a past-due electric bill - please remember that you need to contact the Brooklyn office **before April 1, 2021**, to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

T.I.P. Rural Electric

Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays.....641-522-9221
or Toll Free..... 800-934-7976
After Hours (Outages & Emergencies Only) ..641-522-9223
or Toll Free 800-934-7976

website: www.tiprec.com

SBS Inspections Inc. Testing and Treating Poles this Spring



Spring has arrived again and T.I.P. is continuing our pole testing, treatment, and replacement program. We test and treat our 1,700 miles of overhead line over a ten year period, or approximately 170 miles per year. We have hired SBS Inspections Inc. from Olathe, CO, again this year. Our overall average of poles rejected has dropped from 10% the first time through, 2% the second time through, to only 1.35 % the third time through.

Around the end of March or early April, SBS Inspections Inc. will start testing and treating poles in the **outlined** areas above which include Keokuk County in all or parts of Sigourney, East Lancaster, West Lancaster, Steady Run, Jackson, Clear Creek and Richland townships. These men dig a hole about 18 to 24 inches deep and about 12 inches out from the pole. After exposing the wood, the poles are inspected and treated with a wood preservative, and then the hole is backfilled and the dirt tamped into place. This groundline treatment of wood preservative should extend the pole's life at least another 10 to 20 years.

SBS Inspection crews will be using pickups and 4-wheelers which will be marked with "Sub-Contractor for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative" signs.

By changing out the rotted poles that are beyond saving and by other poles being given a groundline treatment of wood preservative, we will be able to provide you with even more dependable electric service in the future.

T.I.P. REC Employees are Volunteering in our Communities



Pictured above from left to right: Mike Kleitsch, Work Order and Material Clerk, and Nate Hopwood, IT Manager, holding the gift cards they received in recognition for having the most volunteer hours in 2020. Nate was the first place winner with 239.75 volunteer hours and Mike was second place winner with 195.50 volunteer hours.

Your cooperative employees have been busy demonstrating what the Touchstone Energy® brand means by showing members that co-ops bring more to them than just electricity; they bring the "power of human connections."

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative's 25 employees have been showing that we care about our communities and promise to stand behind the core values of Touchstone Energy® which are **integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to communities we serve** by taking the time to volunteer when a helping hand is needed.

Although volunteering proved to be a challenge because of the Covid pandemic regulations, last year your co-op employees put in approximately **750.5** volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving. Through this program a donation of \$301.88 was given to both Big Hearts 4 Tiny Hands in Brooklyn, Iowa, and First Resources Corporation, in Sigourney, Iowa.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative employees-volunteering to make our communities a better place to live.

2020 Patronage Dividend Allocation

Your patronage dividend is one of the primary benefits of being a member of your non-profit rural electric cooperative. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible.

Upon approval by your Board of Directors, T.I.P. members who had electric service during the year 2020 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2020 (If you had multiple services with T.I.P., these are included in the allocation amount.)

The patronage dividend allocation notice will be printed on current members' electric bills that will be mailed in April. Those who were members in 2020 who no longer have electric service with T.I.P. will receive a notice in the mail. The allocation has no cash value and cannot be used towards payment of electric bills.

If a member is deceased, the member's heirs need to contact the cooperative's office to discuss payment options. If you were a member and have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to you correctly.

2020 Audit Completed



Each year your Cooperative is required to have an audit of its books by a Certified Public Accountant to check that proper accounting practices are followed.

The 2020 audit was completed in January by the firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of Cedar Rapids. Pictured above from left to right: Ming Wu and Andrew Moen.

A Piece of History - 1938



This Frigidaire refrigerator pictured above made by General Motors was the very first appliance to be energized on T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative's lines at the Fay and Lucille Wilcox home. They are pictured below as Fay turned on the lights for the very first time in 1938.



Fay and Lucille Wilcox

"The day the lights were turned on for the first time was a red letter day in the life of Mrs. Wilcox and myself," says Mr. Wilcox. "As a matter of fact, the first lights on the T.I.P. system were turned on at my house and I guess it gave me more real satisfaction than anything else."

We would like to thank the Wilcox family for donating this amazing piece of history to T.I.P. REC

Craig Stallman Receives Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate



Pictured above is Craig Stallman, Director, who received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative has a commitment to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative member-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making

Help Those In Need - Sign Up for Operation Round-Up®



When you sign up, your **monthly** electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The funds collected will then be dispersed to various local organizations and individuals in need.

You can sign up on the back of your bill or go to our website. (www.tiprec.com - click on the “About Us” tab and go down to “Community Involvement” and click on “Operation Round-Up®” on the right.)

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is dedicated to making a meaningful difference in our communities and we hope you will help by signing up for Operation Round-Up®. The Power of Many, Working as One!

Tjader & Highstrom Utility Services, LLC Works on FEMA Projects



T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative has started the year off with multiple construction projects. Tjader & Highstrom Utility Services, LLC has been contracted to complete these projects that were awarded through FEMA.

At the first of the year, they upgraded three miles of three-phase lines going west and south out of our Homestead Substation in Iowa County. They then moved onto two miles of three-phase line upgrades going east out of our Koszta Substation in Marengo Township. From there they have two projects on our Madison Substation upgrading three-phase lines totaling about one mile around the Holiday Lake area in Poweshiek County. They will finish off with one mile of single-phase line upgrades on our Webster Substation in Keokuk County, Clear Creek Township.

We would like to thank our member-owners for your cooperation as these projects are being completed.

NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, March 25th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to www.tiprec.com and Click on Rapid Pay or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.

Non-Discrimination Statement

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.