

living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

SEPTEMBER 2017

Members set attendance record at 70th Annual Meeting of the Membership ▶ See page 4

Solar eclipse, co-op style!

We gathered to watch
day turn into night



Changes
announced for
**heating bill
assistance
program**

Installation of
automated meters
begins Sept. 11

Co-op historian
says even today,
**every voice
makes a
difference**

Visit our website at www.cvrec.com

Members set attendance record at 70th Annual Meeting

On Monday, Aug. 7, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., kicked off its 70th Annual Meeting of the Membership at Honey Creek Resort, to a standing room only crowd. Nearly 860 members and guests – 40 percent more than last year, which set the previous record – packed the meeting room to hear updates on the condition of the cooperative, meet and speak with local and federal legislators, elect directors, enjoy a great meal and hope for a chance to win a door prize.

Every year, CVEC strives to have something for everyone who attends the Annual Meeting. Many of the members returning this year have followed their cooperative for years, providing support and participating in its activities. And thankfully, with each additional year, more members make time to attend.

The weather could not have been better for the event. The gathering was a great time to meet with friends and neighbors, enjoy dinner and hear about how their cooperative is important to them. There were things to do and prizes for young children and students, who someday will be

sitting in the audience providing direction on future issues and challenges. 🌱



Audrie Beary and daughter Cecilia had fun at the meeting.



All youngsters in attendance received CVEC hard hats.



Phillip and Diane Whitson were lucky winners of our Grand Prize, a Gravelly 42" XL Zero Turn Riding Lawn Mower.



Olivia Morgan won the new Luck of the Draw \$500 Scholarship; only students attending the Annual Meeting were eligible.

These members won prizes at the Annual Meeting

Grand Prize #1	Gravelly 42" Mower	Phillip & Diane Whitson
Grand Prize #2	50" 4K TV	Patrick Beal
Grand Prize #3	\$200 Energy Certificate	Vernon and Catherine Jungling
Grand Prize #4	\$100 Energy Certificate	Vasily or Liliya Megeden
Mail-In Prize	Meco Electric Grill	John & Kathryn Syhlman
Luck of the Draw	\$500 Scholarship	Olivia Morgan
Kids' Prize #1	Apple iPad	Ayla Green
Kids' Prize #2	Electric Scooter	Lane See
Kids' Prize #3	Drone	Timothy Alexander
Kids' Prize #4	Keyboard	Jorryn Crall
Kids' Prize #5	RC Stunt Car	Brenna Whitney
\$50 Energy Credit	Chad and Heather Whitney, Ruth Belzer, Eugene Scieszinski, Martha Conway, Robert and Dolores Dykstra, Donald and Jean Davis, Charles and Rosemary Scott, Thomas Davis, Ed and Kathleen Crall, Georgia Mann, Rosemary Newman, William and Sherri Duey, Dick and Doris Algreen, Kenneth and Shirley Williams, Catherine Benson, Karl and Lynn Pinegar, Diana Bonebright, Michele Henderson, Lucille Kendall, Randy and Penney Braaksma	



Office
2090 Highway 5 South
P.O. Box 486
Albia, IA 52531-0486

Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Telephone Numbers
Days, nights or holidays:
641-932-7126 (local)
or 800-475-1702

Website
www.cvrec.com

We accept



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Annual Meeting is one of my favorite events of the year

BY BRYON STILLEY



This year marked the 70th Annual Meeting, and it was held on Aug. 7 at Honey Creek Resort. We're unpacking,

taking notes on ways to improve and already planning for 2018.

It takes a lot of time and hard work by every one of our team members and directors to hold a great event like this. A big thank you goes out to our team for keeping the members in mind when planning this event. This meeting is for you, the members – and we want you to have an enjoyable experience, so we will continue to look at ways of improving this experience for all that are in attendance.

I want to thank all our members who attended this year's meeting. Every year I look forward to catching up with old friends and meeting new friends. It's hard to believe that Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative was organized in 1945. Yet, we still value the same mission 70 years later, which is to efficiently deliver safe, reliable electric service to our members.

We had some very special guests join us this year, including retired directors, retired employees, legislators and other attendees from all over the state – including other cooperatives. We always look forward to not only seeing our members but also the special guests that take time to visit our fun-filled event.

Thank you again to all who made a difference by attending the meeting at Honey Creek Resort and making this event a huge success. We look forward to seeing you next year. ⚡

Bryon Stille is the general manager of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Five simple words can help keep linemen safe

If you're driving on Iowa roadways, what should you do if you approach a utility vehicle stopped on the shoulder with its flashing lights activated? According to the state's new **Move Over or Slow Down** law, you must move over or slow down, or you could be fined \$100 for not complying.

Iowa has had a Move Over or Slow Down law on the books since 2002. The original law stated that a motorist must change lanes or slow down when approaching a stationary emergency, tow or maintenance vehicle that has its flashing lights activated.

Earlier this year, additional legislation was unanimously approved by the Iowa house and senate and signed into law by Gov. Branstad. The updated law further

defined utility maintenance vehicles to include bucket trucks, garbage trucks, tow trucks and the like. As of July 1, Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law covers your cooperative's utility maintenance vehicles.

To help spread this important safety message and protect our linemen from serious injury or death, the electric co-ops of Iowa have partnered with other utility groups in the state to develop a public awareness campaign. We urge you to visit www.MoveOverIowa.com and take the online pledge to obey Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law. Once you enter your name and ZIP Code on the website and take the pledge, you have the option to share your pledge on Facebook or Twitter, encouraging your friends and family to do the same. ⚡



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a 7,000-lumen LED tripod work light!

If you're the lucky, randomly chosen winner at one of Iowa's electric cooperatives this month, we'll send you a \$120 Husky Twin-Head Work Light that will provide all the light you need for any home, garage or shop project. Check the contest rules and complete the entry form by Sept. 30, 2017, at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: www.livingwithenergyiowa.com. ⚡



LED Lucy meets members at Restoration Day parade

CVEC participated in Albia's 32nd Annual Restoration Days Parade last month. Many employees and their families volunteered to participate in the parade and toss candy to kids along the parade route – and LED Lucy showed off our Annual Meeting Grand Prize, a Gravely 42" XL Zero Turn Riding Lawn Mower. ⚡



After the parade, CVEC's Charles Van De Pol (center) introduced LED Lucy to co-op members.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Installation of automated meters begins Sept. 11

CVEC has contracted with Honeywell, an innovative and trusted vendor in the electric industry dating back more than 125 years, to provide an automated meter reading solution for our cooperative. Honeywell developed the program and contracted with Texas Meter Device (TMD) to perform the actual installation of the meters.



Our plan is to begin changing meters on Sept. 11 and complete the project around Dec. 1. You'll see TMD workers around our service territory – they'll have CVEC logos on their vehicles – so don't be alarmed if you see someone at your meter during the next few months! ⚡

Meet your newly elected directors

The terms of three directors representing CVEC expired at this year's Annual Meeting. It's not always an easy task to find members who have the time or even the interest in serving on the Board, but the nominating committee did a great job this year of finding qualified members to run.

One of the seven Cooperative Principles encourages member participation, which includes running for election on your board. Being on the board takes a great deal of personal time and commitment, but the benefits are great – including understanding the issues at hand and gaining a great deal of personal satisfaction serving your friends, business associates and other members.



Rebecca DeTar, District 2

Michael Miller, District 4

Richard Welsh, District 5

These directors were reelected to serve 3-year terms:

- Rebecca DeTar – District 2
- Michael Miller – District 4
- Richard Welsh – District 5

Thank you to all the candidates for your willingness to represent your district. Your interest and involvement are crucial in providing for the future success of your cooperative. ⚡



Keep equipment far away from OVERHEAD POWER LINES.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line:

- Stay on the equipment unless, in a very rare case, it's on fire.
- Call emergency and utility services.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Do not leave equipment until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.
- If equipment is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety.



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

2090 Highway 5 South • Albia, IA 52531
641-932-7126 • cvrec.com