

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REMINDERS

ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024

The 85th Annual Meeting of the members of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Central Lyon High School, located on Greene Street in Rock Rapids at 7:15 PM on March 25, 2024. Meal will be served from 5:00-7:00 PM in the commons of the high school. Registration begins at 5:00 PM.

Attend the Annual Meeting and get a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill.

Ramifications of Not Extending Director Term Limits

Your Lyon REC Board will be asking our fellow members to vote in favor of extending term limits at our 2024 Annual Meeting on March 25.

In the co-op's January and February member newsletters, we included articles that explained the benefits of extending Lyon REC director term limits from three consecutive 4-year terms to four consecutive 4-year terms.

We've been focusing on the positives of extending the term limits, but this month I want members to consider three potential impacts of not extending director term limits:

1. **Costs will increase to train and educate directors.**

There is an upfront financial investment to educate new directors and bring them up to speed on industry realities and challenges so they can govern effectively. Many directors will tell you that it takes at least 2-3 years for them to feel comfortable in their role. Extending term limits for an additional 4 years would save money on those upfront educational costs for the co-op while members benefit from the expertise of more senior directors.

2. **The cooperative will be deprived of leadership potential.**

Since 2006, 12 Lyon REC directors had to leave the board because of term limits. Many of these folks were serving as officers of the board when they reached their 12-year limit of service and the membership missed out on their continued service and leadership. Extending term limits does not guarantee 16 years of service; directors must still be elected by the membership every 4 years.

3. **Lyon REC will not be directly represented on affiliated boards.**

As one of just a handful of Iowa electric cooperatives that institutes director term limits, it is difficult for our directors to gain enough tenure to serve on affiliated boards such as our power supplier (Basin Electric Power Cooperative), our statewide trade association (Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives) and our financial services provider (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation). Directors need time to establish relationships with their peers before being nominated to serve on these affiliate boards. Voting to extend term limits for Lyon REC directors

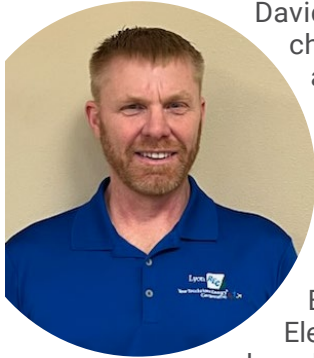
would help increase the chances of our members having local representation on industry-related boards.

If you have questions or concerns about extending director term limits by an additional 4 consecutive years on March 25, please contact Lyon Rural Electric's office at 712-472-2506 or info@lyonrec.coop. Your Lyon REC directors appreciate the opportunity to serve you and want the best for our fellow members and our rural communities.

Board of Director Nominees

The members below were nominated by the Nominating Committees from their districts. Voting ballots will be included in the annual meeting packets that will be mailed out in early March. Ballots can be mailed in, dropped off at the Cooperative office or you may bring them to the annual meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024.

DAVID GRIESSE DISTRICT **4**
Riverside Township



David and his wife Amy have 2 children. They have lived in the area most of their lives. Dave raises pigs and calves. He is currently serving on the board for Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative. His previous board experience includes serving on the Farm Bureau Board for several years, Farmers Elevator Board and several church boards throughout the years.

LOWELL DRENTH DISTRICT **4**
Elgin Township



Lowell and his wife Diane live near Little Rock where they raise corn, soybeans and hogs. Lowell farms with his son Jason who lives in Rock Rapids. His other son, Aaron is in the Air Force and is currently in Colorado Springs. Lowell is a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Rock Rapids. He is currently serving as the Clerk of Elgin Township and a Town and Country Member.

RYAN HORSTMAN DISTRICT **5**
Garfield Township



Ryan and his wife Lindsay live east of Doon. They have three children. Ryan has been a farmer all his life. He is a member of First Reformed Church in Doon and has served as an Elder and Deacon. Ryan is also a part of the Doon Fire Department.

DAMON PEDERSEN DISTRICT **5**
Rock Township



Damon and his wife Jennifer have four children. Damon has lived in the area his whole life. He is a real estate appraiser and a co-owner of Attig/Pedersen Management & Appraisals in Rock Rapids. Damon has enjoyed serving his first term on the board for Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative and is currently running for re-election to the board. His previous board experience includes being on the Rock River Golf & Country Club Board and serving on the Lyon County Compensation Board.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Springtime Brings

Out Scammers

Springtime is coming, and so are the scammers.

Their timing is as reliable as the birds, flowers and buds on the trees in your yard. But that's the only thing that's reliable about the crooks who pose as electric cooperative employees and call you or visit you to ask for money.

Impersonators will ask you for everything, from making good on a supposedly overdue bill to paying upfront to replace your electric meter. They might tell you about a fantastic new program designed to save you energy and ask you for your personal information to sign up—including your bank account or credit card number.

Don't fall for it! Here's what to be on the lookout for:

1. Someone who calls on the phone might convince you that you've overpaid your electric bill and ask for your bank account or credit card number for a refund. Think before you agree: If you usually pay your bill with a card or check, the utility



already has that information and doesn't need to ask for it.

2. A scammer who shows up at your home claiming to be a utility worker might offer to do a free energy audit and then either ask for your credit card number to pay additional services or convince you to let him come inside your house, where he can rip you off.
3. If you haven't requested a home visit from your electric cooperative—or if the utility hasn't notified you in advance that someone is coming—chances are good that the unscheduled visitor who rings your doorbell is a fraud.
4. Any contractor who demands immediate payment is not legit. Nobody from your electric cooperative will visit or call you and threaten to cut off your service unless you pay on the spot.
5. Never agree to pay by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, a gift card or a cash-reload card. Those are sure

signs you're being scammed.

If you believe someone is falsely representing himself as an employee of your electric cooperative, send him on his way. Then, report the visit to your utility.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening and use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

Operating Statistics

JANUARY

	2023	2024
KWH Purchased	12,858,435	13,015,045
KWH Sold	12,326,172	12,532,333
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	4.14%	3.71%
Total Demand	21,828 KW	24,252 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,252 KWH	4,228 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$326.78	\$437.63
Income Per Mile	\$1,324.62	\$1,388.53
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,239.24	\$1,323.42
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.18¢	6.27¢

Basin Bus Tour – June 12-14



Join us on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine June 12-14. In addition, tour the Garrison Dam.

We will depart from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative June 12 on an air-conditioned charter bus. We will have plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is June 13. We will depart Bismarck, North Dakota, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take an elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine, weather

permitting. In the evening, we will enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River.

On June 14 we head back home. We will have frequent rest stops to break up the day. We will return back to Lyon Rural Electric in the early evening.

The cost is only \$150.00 per person. The fee includes the cost of the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat and snack breaks. Lyon Rural Electric shares the tour bus with two other cooperatives so just 15 seats are available. Sign up today or register to win an all expenses paid tour at our annual meeting, March 25. Call Lyon Rural Electric today at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 to reserve your seat!

Get Your Home Ready for Spring

You still have plenty of time before you'll need to crank up the air conditioning at home. Use the spring season to do some maintenance that could help your a/c run more efficiently and reliably this summer.

Here are five tips:

1. Replace air filters before you turn the a/c on for the first time. Then, replace them again about once a month until autumn. Clean air filters allow conditioned air to flow easily through your rooms. And they lower the amount of dust, dander and pollutants that get pushed into your indoor air.
2. Move lamps away from thermostats. Electronics and lamps give off heat when they're turned on, which can fool your a/c into "thinking" the room is warmer than it is.
3. Seal leaks. If you felt cold drafts coming inside during the winter, find the sources of the leaks and caulk them. Look around ducts, cables and wires on the interior side of outdoor walls. Those same leaks will let cool, air-conditioned air escape during the summer.
4. Switch the direction of your ceiling fan blades. For warm weather, the blades should rotate counter-clockwise.
5. Schedule an HVAC inspection. A qualified HVAC pro can spot problems with your air conditioning system before they occur and make sure your equipment is maintained and ready for warm weather.



Complaint Procedure

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative values our members and their membership. Should you have concerns regarding your membership, electric service, or other issues, please contact Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative at 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 and our staff will be happy to assist you.

If your complaint is related to the Lyon REC service rather than its rates, and Lyon REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll free 1-877-565-4450, or by writing to: 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

Nondiscrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: program.intake@usda.gov