

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

December 2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Nominating Committee seeks candidates for board of directors

Butler County REC's board of directors have appointed the following members to serve on a nominating committee and select members to run for three director positions that will expire on March 27, 2024:

- **Dan Roose, Allison, 319-240-8577**
- **James Luebbers, Aplington, 319-231-3541**
- **Kenneth Kappmeyer, Waverly, 319-404-3486 (evenings)**

This committee will meet at the cooperative office in Allison at **11 a.m., Dec. 28, 2023**, to nominate members for the office of director. The election will take place at the cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Your co-op's board of directors consists of nine members serving three-year terms. Every year, three of the positions come up for election. Each director must reside in the area he or she is elected to represent.

For the 2024 election, the board is seeking nominations in the following areas: the northeast quarter of Butler County, the southwest quarter of Butler County and the west half of Bremer County. The members listed below are currently serving as your board representatives. Their terms will expire and at this time are the only names on the ballot:

- **Troy Feldman, Greene, northeast quarter of Butler County**
- **Share Brandt, Allison, southwest quarter of Butler County**

The following director will not seek re-election:

- **Duane Rieckenberg, Ionia, west half of Bremer County**

If you are interested in running for a position or want to recommend someone residing in any of these areas, please contact a member on the nominating committee before Dec. 28, 2023. Please call our office if you need help to reach a member of the nominating committee.

Nomination details

The list of nominations will then be posted at the Butler County REC office in Allison. For 10 days after posting this list, additional nominations of members residing in the general area of vacancy may be made by written petition. Forms will be provided at the request of any member and must be signed by no less than 20 members of the cooperative. Any member so nominated must give prior consent to such nomination. The following excerpt from the Butler County REC articles of incorporation and bylaws further explains this process:

Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the regular annual meeting of members, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members of the Association who are not directors of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees, residing in the general area of the vacancy, with at least one member nominated for each vacancy to be filled at the next annual meeting. The written list of nominations of the Nominating Committee shall be posted at the office of the Association not less than thirty days prior to mailing the notice of the annual meeting of members. For ten days after posting of the list of nominations by the committee, additional nominations of members residing in the general area of the vacancy may be made by written petition on forms provided on request of any member, and signed by not less than 20 members of the Association. Any member nominated shall give prior consent to such nomination whether by committee or petition. The notice of the annual meeting of members shall list the names of all nominees for the office of director.

In the event any member who is nominated either by the committee or petition withdraws consent, dies, or for any other reason is unable or declines to serve as a director, prior to the annual meeting but after the deadlines set forth above for posting and mailing of notices, and as a result thereof there remains only one nominee from the general area of any vacancy, then the committee on nominations shall be vested with full authority to nominate an additional member of the Association residing in the general area of the vacancy, so that two nominees from that area exist. If sufficient time exists prior to the annual meeting, the members of the Association shall be notified by mail of the new nomination. If sufficient time does not exist, prior to the election of directors at the annual meeting, a general announcement shall be made concerning the withdrawal, death, etc. of the person originally nominated, and the person subsequently nominated by the Nominating Committee.

Nonpayment disconnections suspended for holidays

At Butler County REC, we know the holidays can be a difficult time financially for some of our members.

During the week between Christmas and New Year's (Dec. 25-Jan.1), Butler County REC will suspend nonpayment disconnections. If your bill is delinquent prior to that week, your property may be posted. Normal disconnect procedures will resume Jan. 2, if temperatures are above 20 degrees. **CURRENT BILLS ARE STILL DUE ON THURSDAY, DEC. 28.**



Thank you for being our valued member.

Wishing you joy, peace, and love this holiday season and throughout the year.

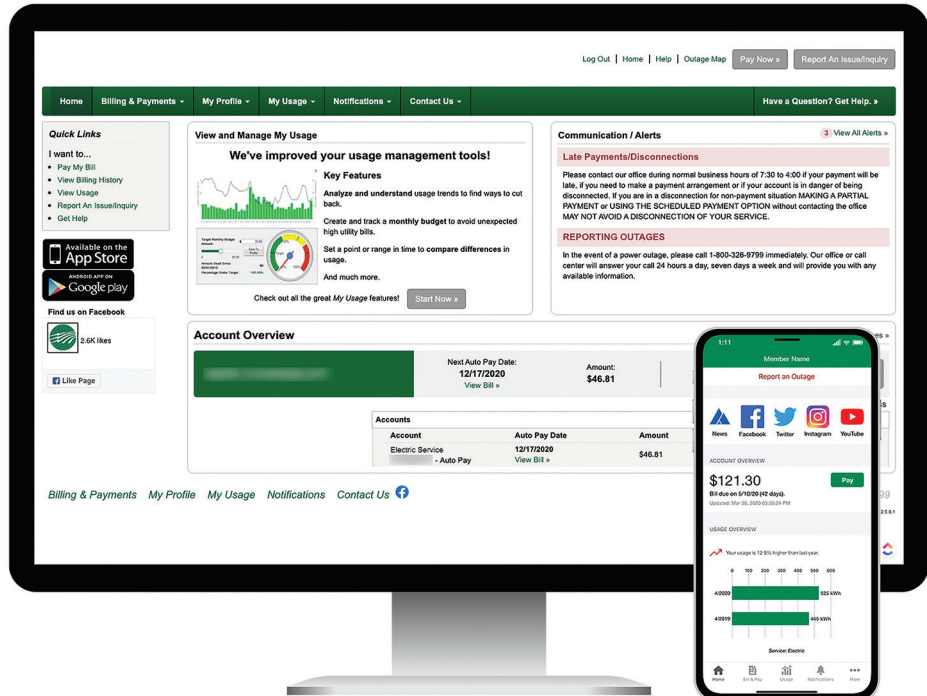
Pay your bill with the enhanced SmartHub

When you log in to SmartHub to pay your Butler County REC bill this month, you will see a more user-friendly interface. This refresh will simplify how you connect with us while keeping the same powerful engagement and functionality.

If you are already registered, look around to see the enhancements.

If you are not registered, go ahead and register your account to make payments, check your usage, contact us, and more. You will need an email address and your account number (found on the top right of your bill). Then, activate the features you want, such as alerts/notifications, Auto Pay, and paperless billing. Don't forget to download the SmartHub app to manage your account on-the-go.

If you have any questions or issues, contact us by email: butler@butlerrec.coop or give us a call: 888.267.2726.



At your electric co-op, we help you find more ways to save energy, save money and help the environment. So small savings today lead to big savings tomorrow.

Our Touchstone Energy Values



Touchstone Energy®

Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community | Teamwork

Rebates for appliances

If you are shopping for appliances this holiday season, visit our website at butlerrec.coop or contact us at 888.267.2726 for information on our rebates for new, ENERGY STAR rated appliances installed at members' locations:

- Clothes dryer - \$50
- Clothes washer - \$50
- Dishwasher - \$25
- Freezer - \$25
- Refrigerator - \$25



The Energy Star label will be located in the bottom right corner of the Energy Guide.

Don't forget to check our website for additional rebates!

Be prepared for winter storms

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Butler County REC cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. This can be dangerous if temperatures are extremely low. During a power outage, our crews will work as safely and quickly as possible to restore power. Here are a few ideas for you to prepare yourself.

- **STAY WARM** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your family warm, but exercise caution when using and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.
- **STAY FED** – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal, canned goods, and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.
- **STAY SAFE** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to us by calling 888.267.2726. Be sure to add our phone number to your list of contacts.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Butler County REC is ready for Mother Nature, and we want you to be ready, too.



Youth Tour 2024

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: Butler County REC is now accepting applications for the all-expense paid 2024 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 15-21!

Your parents or guardians must be Butler County REC members or residents of Aplington, Fairbank, Fredericksburg, or Readlyn.

The top three applicants will be interviewed and awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Contact us at 888.267.2726 or butlerrec.coop for more information.

Application deadline is Friday, March 1, 2024.



Be sure to visit our website at butlerrec.coop for information on scholarships:

- Butler County REC Technical/ Trade Industry/Electric Line Apprenticeship
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative/ Northwest Iowa Community College Line Program
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative/ Iowa Lakes Community College Wind Energy and Turbine Technology

Contact us at 888.267.2726 if you have questions.

WE WISH YOU A
Merry Christmas



& Happy New Year ~

*This holiday season,
Butler County REC
will be closed:
Monday, Dec. 25
Tuesday, Dec. 26
Monday, Jan. 1*

*Our phones are always
answered: 888.267.2726*



Join us for the 12 Days of Christmas!

Although the 12 days of Christmas are AFTER the big holiday, at BCREC we are celebrating Dec. 11-22, 2023! Watch our Facebook and Instagram pages for the opportunity to win a prize for answering a question on the first 11 days. On the 12th day, we will announce the winner of a BCREC \$50 bill credit from all answers received for the 11 days. Winners will be chosen at random from entrants.

Rules are as follows:

- Must be a member/live in a member's home.
- Entrants can only win one prize throughout the 11 days but all are eligible for the bill credit.
- There will not be any partridges in a pear tree or drummers drumming as prizes but there will be gift cards and fun winter items.
- Gift cards will be mailed to the recipients and the other items will either be mailed, dropped off, or the winner can stop by our office in Allison to pick up their prize.
- Although not required, we would love it if you liked/followed both BCREC's Facebook (facebook.com/bcrec) and Instagram (instagram.com/butlercountyrec) pages.
- Members must fully release and hold Meta (Facebook and Instagram's parent company) harmless from liability and acknowledge that this promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed, administered by, or associated with Meta.
- All entries and any copyright subsisting in the entries become and remain the property of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, who may publish or cause to be published any of the entries received.



New phone number? Mailing address?

Contact Butler County REC if you have a new phone number or mailing address so that we can get in touch with you for outage information and other cooperative business.

REMINDER: We will ALWAYS identify ourselves and will NEVER call and ask for payment information. If you receive a scam call, please hang up and call the cooperative: 888.267.2726.

LED holiday lights rebate available

If your Christmas decor buying includes LED holiday lights, we have a rebate for you. Butler County REC offers a rebate of up to \$2 for each LED item purchased (not to exceed purchase price).

Visit butlerrec.coop for more info!

Why waste energy?

The biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy efficiency, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories are:

1. *Buying oversized heating and cooling appliances.* Too many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are too big. An oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more, in the long run, on heating and cooling bills, than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
2. *Ignoring leaks.* When you replace your heating and air conditioning system, have your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most-efficient, most-expensive system won't perform at peak if heated or air-conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.
3. *Neglecting to insulate.* Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space, and walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
4. *Skipping fans.* Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or air-conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break—and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity, and they can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.



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Pay your bill online with SmartHub