InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

December 2026 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Nominating Committee seeks board candidates

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 31, 2027:

- **Phil Barnett, Clarksville, 319-239-7165**
- **Ami Cordes, Aplington, 319-505-3590**
- **Lawain Biermann, Tripoli, 319-239-1005**

This committee will meet at the cooperative office in Allison at **10 a.m., Dec. 30, 2026,** to nominate members for the office of director. The election will take place at the cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2027.

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 2027 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 they are the only names on the ballot:

- **Troy Feldman, Greene, northeast quarter of Butler County**
- **Share Brandt, Allison, southwest quarter of Butler County**
- **Ken Kappmeyer, Waverly, 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. 30, 2026**. 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.



May the season bring you peace, joy, and warmth.

This holiday season, Butler County REC will be closed: Thursday, Dec. 24; Friday, Dec. 25; and Friday, Jan. 1.

Our phones are always answered at 888.267.2726.

New employees announced

Jenna Pringnitz - Business development manager



We are happy to announce that Jenna Pringnitz has joined Butler County REC as our new business development manager. She began her position on Nov. 2.

Jenna is not a stranger to the cooperative world. She comes to us from our statewide organization, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), Des Moines, where she served as the office and student programs coordinator.

A graduate of NIACC, Mason City, and Waldorf University, Forest City, Jenna did additional coursework at NICC, Sheldon, in powerline technology and ISU, Ames, where she earned transfer credits in foreign language. She holds a seal of biliteracy in English and Spanish.

Bryce Hovde – Apprentice lineman



We look forward to Bryce Hovde continuing with Butler County REC. Bryce served as a 1,000-hour employee this summer and has joined us as an apprentice lineman. He began with us on Nov. 2.

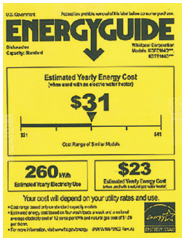
Bryce is a 2026 graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College's powerline program.

Welcome to the team, Jenna and Bryce!

Rebates for appliances

If you purchased a new appliance for holiday festivities or are gifting an appliance to an REC member, 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 dryer, heat pump - $100
Clothes washer - $50
Dishwasher - $25
Freezer - $25
Refrigerator - $25



Be sure the Energy Star logo is located in the bottom right corner of the Energy Guide.

Disconnects suspended for holiday season

Between Christmas and New Year's Day (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 due on Dec. 28.

FOR STUDENTS

Youth Tour 2027

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: Butler County REC is now accepting applications for the all-expense paid 2027 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 17-22!

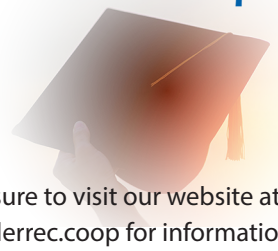
Your parents or guardians must be Butler County REC members or residents of Aplington, Fairbank, Fredericksburg, or Readlyn.

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 Monday, March 1, 2027.

Scholarships



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.

The gift of cooperative membership



The holiday season offers a special opportunity to reflect on what we can accomplish when we work together. The cooperative model is built on that very idea: people joining together to meet a shared need and creating something stronger than any one person could build alone.

When you receive electricity from us, you're a member of an electric co-op, and that distinction is at the heart of everything we do.

Electric cooperatives operate under a business model designed to serve their members, not outside shareholders. Our purpose is to provide safe and reliable electricity while supporting our members and the communities we call home. Every decision we make starts with that responsibility.

One of the most meaningful benefits of co-op membership is having a voice in how your cooperative operates. Our locally elected board of directors is made up of members who live here and represent the communities we serve. They help guide priorities and make decisions with the needs of our membership in mind. Your participation, whether by voting in board elections, attending our member appreciation events, or sharing feedback, helps keep us connected to the people who matter most.

Membership also means access to co-op resources and programs designed specifically with your needs in mind. From energy-efficiency programs and tools to help you manage energy use to SmartHub to our youth programs to our economic development efforts, we work to provide services that make a meaningful difference in your life and the lives of your family.

Our commitment extends beyond power lines. We live and work in the same communities you do. We see the impact of local schools, small businesses, community organizations, and neighbors helping neighbors. That connection shapes how we serve and reminds us that a strong co-op is built on more than electricity alone.

As you gather with family and friends this holiday season, I hope you'll take pride in knowing that your co-op belongs to you. Your membership helps sustain a business rooted in local accountability, community investment, and service to others.

On behalf of everyone at Butler County REC, thank you for being part of our cooperative family. We're honored to serve you and grateful for the trust you place in us throughout the year.

Details announced for 2027 Momentum is Building

Iowa builders and contractors are invited to discover the latest advancements in energy-efficiency technologies at the 2027 Momentum is Building (MIB) Conference, set for Feb. 18-19, 2027, at The Sheraton West Des Moines.

The annual conference offers opportunities for contractors to earn CEUs (continuing education units) in Iowa's plumbing/mechanical, HVAC, and electrical codes.

Sponsored by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency, the MIB Conference connects Iowa's construction industry with the services and resources provided by local electric cooperatives, which serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across all 99 counties.

"We're thrilled with our speaker lineup this year," said Ryan Cornelius, vice president of corporate relations at Corn Belt Power Cooperative. "We have our stalwart CEU providers coming back, Dave Sullivan and Terry Moorman, and we are welcoming a couple of new providers, Scott Meinecke and the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 33."

This year's opening keynote is Randy Dean, "The E-Mail Sanity Expert." Dean is a nationally recognized expert in time and email management who has helped thousands improve productivity at work and in life.



The conference will close with keynote Chuck Long. A former Iowa Hawkeye football star, Chuck now serves as CEO/executive director of the Iowa Sports Foundation and as an analyst for the Big Ten Network.

For almost 35 years, the conference has provided a platform for electric cooperatives and contractors to collaborate in delivering safe, efficient, and cost-effective home comfort solutions to Iowans.

Don't miss this chance to stay ahead of the curve in energy efficiency and enhance your professional skills. For more information or to register, visit www.MomentumIsBuilding.com.



Christmas lights: A history

Long before electricity, people brightened the dark winter nights with firelight — from the burning of the Yule log to candles placed around the home. The first recorded candlelit Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1660. Eventually the lighting of Christmas trees spread across Europe, reaching the United States later in the century.

A festive revolution

While Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb in 1879, it was his colleague, Edward H. Johnson, who created the first electric Christmas tree lights in 1882. He hand wired 80 colored bulbs around a revolving tree in his parlor, all powered by a generator.

Johnson's lights were ahead of their time, as electricity was not yet routinely available, and electric lights were considered expensive. President Grover Cleveland and his wife, First Lady Frances Cleveland, helped boost acceptance in the 1890s, when the White House Christmas tree was illuminated with colored bulbs for their young daughters.

The tradition of outdoor light displays, which we now associate with driving around to view beautifully lit homes and elaborate light shows, began in North America. This expansion was made possible by the development of safe outdoor Christmas light bulbs and light strings in the 1920s.



LEDs, smart displays, and sustainability

Christmas lights have come a long way. Today's LED lights shine brighter than ever, creating beautiful displays while using less energy. They're built to last.

Every holiday season, lights brighten homes across the country. From displays set to music to movies like "Christmas Vacation," holiday lighting turns neighborhoods into festive and fun "flip-the-switch" moments.

For over 350 years, Christmas lights have brightened our lives and homes. The evolution reflects our desire to bring light, warmth, and joy to winter nights — with a mix of new technology and timeless traditions that make holidays magical.

IN*touch*© is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative
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