

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# POWERFUL CONNECTIONS



**Iowa Association of  
Electric Cooperatives**

® A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





One of the top responsibilities of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives is establishing and cultivating powerful connections. Much of our work focuses on connecting with legislators and policymakers, along with the employees, directors and member-consumers of our member cooperatives.

IAEC forms connections through our lobbying efforts, our statewide magazine, social media, youth leadership programs and training events for employees and directors of Iowa's electric cooperatives. You can learn more about these efforts in the department summaries below.

Earlier this year, we commissioned an economic impact study through Goss & Associates of Omaha. These updated statistics help us share how Iowa's electric cooperatives invest heavily in rural economic development and contribute greatly to the state's economy through wages, taxes and community support.

IAEC board directors and senior staff attended a strategic planning session in September and prioritized several initiatives to best serve our members in the years ahead. The board is also preparing for Chuck Soderberg's retirement, which is scheduled for July of 2024.

Finally, we send a fond farewell to IAEC Board President Roger Solomonson, whose tenure on the board will conclude in December. We thank him for serving Iowa's electric cooperatives with integrity and leadership for 8 years.

### REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Staff changes dominated IAEC's Regulatory Affairs Department this year. Ethan Hohenadel was promoted as department director in December 2022, following the resignation of Regi Goodale after 24 years

of service at IAEC. Sabrina Moody joined the team in May as a data analyst.

Additionally, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) welcomed two new board members in 2023 following the departure of Chair Geri Huser and Board Member Dick Lozier; Erik Helland and Sarah Martz were appointed as new chair and board member, respectively.

The IUB managed several large projects this year, including three liquid carbon pipelines, reviewing all agency administrative rules as part of the Governor's Executive Order 10, and managing an independent review of their ratemaking procedures following passage of HF 617.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority has been hard at work updating the Iowa Energy Assurance Plan (soon to be known as the Iowa Energy Security Plan). This plan was developed to coordinate activities from various industries and governmental entities when responding to major events impacting energy availability.

Solar generation, electric vehicles, battery storage, and innovative rate designs continue to be hot topics as we continue to see large shifts in the electric industry.

The Regulatory Affairs department continues to build strong relationships with regulators and other industry stakeholders to educate on cooperative issues, provide needed guidance and information, and dispel negative stereotypes.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Maintaining powerful connections requires constant communication. At IAEC, we celebrated 75 years of publishing in 2023. We mailed our first monthly newsletter to member-consumers back in 1948 and continue that legacy today with *Iowa Electric*

*Cooperative Living* magazine.

Through this publication, Iowa's electric cooperatives can speak directly to member-consumers, legislators and decision makers on issues that impact our mission to provide safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable power.

We also experienced strong participation in our third annual statewide Shine the Light contest, which celebrates our cooperative commitment to community. 126 electric co-op member-consumers nominated local volunteers who are making positive impacts in their communities; this represents an 85% increase in participation compared to the previous year.

IAEC continues to forge powerful connections through social media engagement. We are able to share important stories with our key audiences on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

IAEC organized more than 40 trainings and conferences that further developed cooperative skills and provided valuable networking opportunities. We were pleased to offer a work order workshop and credit issues and collections workshop with Teri Wallis, and NRECA director training which covered topics on boardroom challenges, cybersecurity and the evolution of electric power supply.

IAEC hosted 13 employee conferences covering professional roles in accounting, human resources, communications, member services, operations, IT and management. More than 2,700 cooperative directors and employees benefited from attending statewide conferences and trainings in 2023.

Our new Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP) launched this year with 15 participants from 13 Iowa cooperatives. Content included

leadership development sessions facilitated by Mitch Majeski and a session on strategic planning and financial analysis presented by Teri Wallis. CLIP participants also attended virtual small-group sessions to discuss leadership skills and "ask a senior leader" sessions featuring panels of cooperative employees in various professional roles.

The CLIP group also completed on-demand training modules on the IAEC Learn platform covering topics on leadership fundamentals, coaching, feedback, leading accountability, difficult conversations, productivity and performance appraisals. Participants attended IAEC's REC Day on the Hill and heard from IAEC department heads and attorneys from Sullivan & Ward, P.C. Our 15 CLIP graduates will be recognized for their achievement during IAEC's Annual Meeting in December.

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Our year started off strong when Elliott Gebel joined the GR team in January as our advocacy and political action coordinator. Elliott manages our Iowa PAC program and handles Rural Power grassroots advocacy activities as the presidential caucus season heats up.

Iowa's electric cooperatives had some victories to celebrate following the 2023 Iowa Legislative Session. HF 599 was borne out of conversations between IAEC and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, and we worked with them to pass the legislation which the Governor signed on April 28. This legislation should clear up any lingering confusion from SF 2311 in 2018 regarding the IUB's authority over electric co-op governance on setting rates and fees.

IAEC also supported a new law that will improve the efficiency for Iowa's remaining coal



facilities when it is necessary to notify regulators about environmental improvements being made at the plants to help better control emissions.

Your GR Team also spoke out against proposed legislation that attempts to remove local control from cooperatives. We have been alarmed by legislation that attempts to lump electric co-ops in with carbon pipeline companies. While co-ops support a strong biofuels economy, we also respect landowner rights. We do not take a position on the legislation considered previously, but we must continue to voice our fiduciary concerns about applying restrictions on electric co-op infrastructure that were intended for carbon capture pipeline projects.

The IAEC GR Team is educating legislators and their staffers about concerns regarding electric reliability in this era of misguided federal energy policy. Iowa's electric cooperatives are concerned about catastrophic implications of the EPA's proposed power plant regulations, supply chain issues and delays in approving needed transmission projects. We believe in an "all-of-the-above" generation strategy that ensures reliable electricity for the member-consumers and communities who depend on us for stable power.

## SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL

Ensuring the safety of Iowa electric co-op employees and member-consumers is always paramount. In 2023, IAEC's Safety Team delivered 271 safety meetings across the state. Additionally, 104 direct crew visits and jobsite observations provided valuable opportunities to confirm that crews are following safe practices.

Ten of our member cooperatives successfully passed onsite inspections to improve safety through the Rural Electric

Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). The apprenticeship program remains strong with 93 lineworkers currently enrolled. We also provided several workshops and conferences to support the training and safety of IAEC's members.

A new challenge facing our membership is cybersecurity. Under a grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Safety Team provides onsite tabletop exercises for co-ops to simulate an incident and work to develop plans to mitigate these new threats. In our second round of training, 27 cooperatives have participated with the remaining co-ops to complete training in the first half of 2024.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

IAEC offered two youth education programs in partnership with our member cooperatives this year as we invest in the next generation of cooperative advocates.

The 2023 Iowa Youth Tour included 38 high school students in June. These delegates represented Iowa as they toured historic sights and monuments in D.C., built new friendships and gained a greater understanding of their roles as American citizens.

Developed in 2021 to help our member co-ops identify potential Youth Tour applicants, our Iowa Youth Leadership Academy webinar sessions in October experienced high participation. With over 70 rural Iowa high school students registered, IAEC educated these young leaders about electric co-op careers, advocacy basics and the cooperative business model.

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

IAEC's Benefits Department works to provide superior employee benefit plans at lower costs for our member co-ops. These benefits help our members recruit and retain top talent throughout rural Iowa.

The IAEC Health Care Plan now covers over 1,600 active and retired employees and over 4,200 lives. Health care costs rose greatly in 2023, along with most other expenses. IAEC plan costs continue to run well below benchmarks while providing benefit coverage that exceeds most employer-sponsored plans in Iowa.

Participation in the IAEC dental and vision plans continued to grow in 2023, which demonstrates that co-op employees find value in these plans. This year, we implemented two innovative programs for those with chronic joint pain and added new cooperatives to our Flexible Benefits Plans.

The IAEC Benefits Department also provides services to Hawkeye Insurance Association and its member cooperatives. Hawkeye Pension Plan costs continued to stabilize in 2023, and we were able to provide members with an analysis of future plan costs that shows continued strengthening in the plan's funding and steadily decreasing costs. HIA also sponsors long-term disability plans, co-op sponsored and voluntary short-term disability plans, and a voluntary accident plan to complement the group life and accidental death policies.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
Roger Solomonson, District 3  
Heartland Power Cooperative

**Vice President**  
Gordon Greimann, District 6  
Franklin REC

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Kenny VandenBerg, District 1  
Chariton Valley Electric  
Cooperative

**Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**  
Deena Moore, District 4  
Southwest Iowa REC

**Director**  
Tony Lem, District 2  
Consumers Energy

**Director**  
Jim Miller, District 5  
Calhoun County Electric  
Cooperative Association

**Director**  
Bruce Amundson, District 7  
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

## EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

**NRECA Board Representative**  
Marion Denger  
Prairie Energy Cooperative

**Managers' Representative**  
Kevin Wheeler  
Access Energy Cooperative

**IAEC Executive Vice President /  
General Manager**  
Chuck Soderberg



*Chuck Soderberg*

**Chuck Soderberg**  
Executive Vice President  
and General Manager



*Roger Solomonson*

**Roger Solomonson**  
Board President

# IOWA ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

## DEPARTMENTS & STAFF

### ADMINISTRATION



**Chuck Soderberg**  
Executive Vice President/  
General Manager



**Shelly York**  
Office Manager/  
Iowa Youth Tour Director



**Thresa Stone**  
Office Assistant/  
Assistant Iowa  
Youth Tour Director

### BENEFITS



**Tim Falk**  
Director



**Chris Crone**  
Benefits Specialist



**Katrina Davis**  
Director

### COMMUNICATIONS



**Erin Campbell**  
Director



**Cherié Moen**  
Administrative Specialist



**Kevin Condon**  
Director



**Elliott Gebel**  
Advocacy & Political  
Action Coordinator



**Ethan Hohenadel**  
Director



**Sabrina Moody**  
Data Analyst

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

### REGULATORY AFFAIRS

### SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL



**Scott Meinecke**  
Director



**Carol Schulz**  
Administrative  
Coordinator



**Matt Pociask**  
Job Training /  
Safety Instructor



**Jim Wolfe**  
Job Training /  
Safety Instructor



**Brett Hansen**  
Job Training /  
Safety Instructor





## IAEC'S MEMBER COOPERATIVES ARE DIVIDED INTO SEVEN DISTRICTS

### DISTRICT 1

**Kenny VandenBerg, Director**  
 Access Energy Cooperative  
 Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.  
 Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative  
 Farmers Electric Cooperative, Kalona  
 Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative  
 Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

### DISTRICT 4

**Deena Moore, Director**  
 Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenfield  
 Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Pella Cooperative Electric Association  
 Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative  
 United Electric Cooperative (MO)

### DISTRICT 5

**Jim Miller, Director**  
 Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association  
 Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
 Western Iowa Power Cooperative

### DISTRICT 6

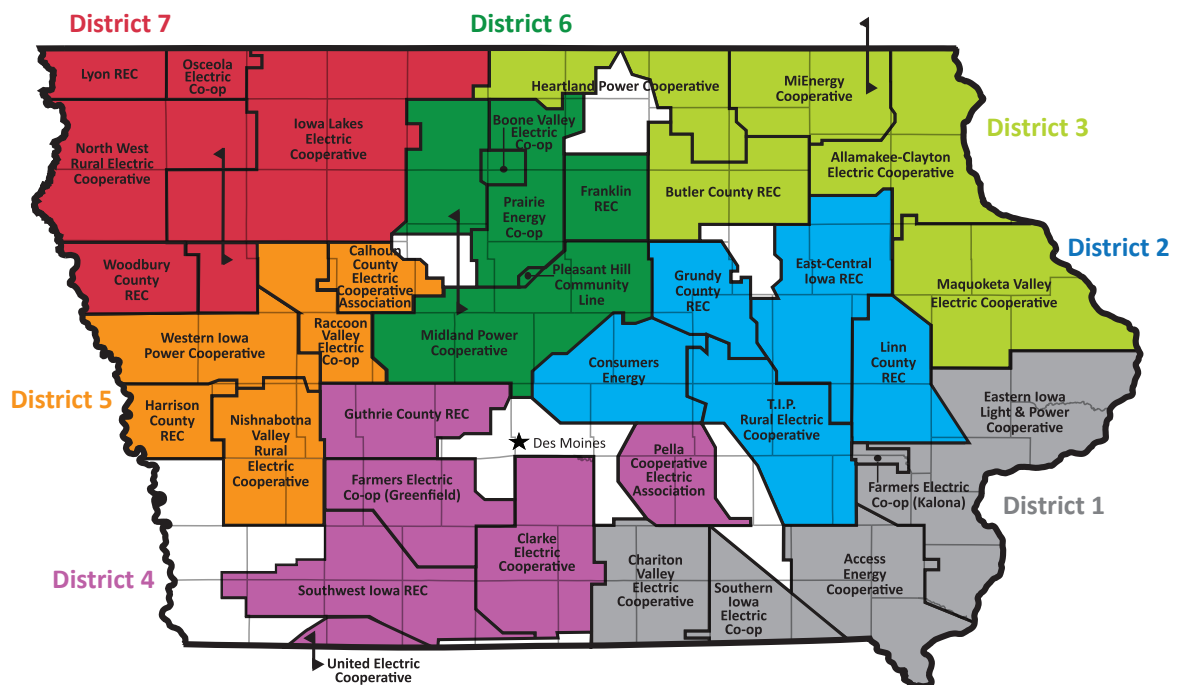
**Gordon Greimann, Director**  
 Boone Valley Electric Cooperative  
 Corn Belt Power Cooperative  
 Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Midland Power Cooperative  
 Pleasant Hill Community Line  
 Prairie Energy Cooperative

### DISTRICT 2

**Tony Lem, Director**  
 Central Iowa Power Cooperative  
 Consumers Energy  
 East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative  
 T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

### DISTRICT 3

**Roger Solomonson, Director**  
 Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative  
 Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative  
 Dairyland Power Cooperative  
 Heartland Power Cooperative  
 Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative  
 MiEnergy Cooperative



#### District Assignments for Generation & Transmission Co-op Members:

District 1: Associated Electric Cooperative Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative	District 5: Basin Electric Cooperative
District 2: Central Iowa Power Cooperative	District 6: Corn Belt Power Cooperative
District 3: Dairyland Power Cooperative	District 7: L & O Power Cooperative Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Atchison-Holt Electric Cooperative (MO)  
 Grundy Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MO)  
 Iowa Area Development Group  
 North Central Missouri Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (MO)

# STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of August 31, 2023 and 2022

## ASSETS

	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,265,173	\$1,013,002
Restricted cash	168,092	143,693
	1,433,265	1,156,695
Accounts receivable	124,206	179,905
Prepaid expenses	236,234	201,792
Investment securities	841,205	786,943
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,634,910</b>	<b>2,325,335</b>
Other investments	190,346	189,924
Operating lease right-of-use assets, net	122,098	-
Property and equipment:		
Office building	950,760	812,518
Automobiles	274,964	273,015
Office furniture and equipment	555,923	482,225
	1,781,647	1,567,758
Less accumulated depreciation	1,232,296	1,186,750
Net property and equipment	549,351	381,008
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,496,705</b>	<b>\$2,896,267</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$511,286	\$456,496
Deferred revenue	92,567	98,981
Health Care Trust payable	93,190	114,782
Current portion of operating lease liability	24,685	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>721,728</b>	<b>670,259</b>
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	97,423	-

## NET ASSETS

Membership certificates		
\$5 stated value; 48 certificates authorized and issued	240	240
Board designations without donor restrictions:		
Contingency reserve	1,402,216	1,402,216
Safety reserve	108,441	128,298
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living reserve	53,726	48,232
Educational assistance reserve	92,689	119,265
Youth Tour reserve	8,877	21,474
Cyber security grant reserve	284,875	200,000
Economic impact study reserve	17,500	-
Undesignated	708,990	306,283
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,677,554</b>	<b>2,226,008</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,496,705</b>	<b>\$2,896,267</b>

# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022



## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

	2023	2022
Assessments	\$2,863,557	\$2,749,876
Subscriptions – Iowa Electric Cooperative Living	344,931	330,197
Public service announcements – Iowa Electric Cooperative Living	11,280	11,280
Special pages and inserts – Iowa Electric Cooperative Living	188,944	158,620
Education and training	723,350	580,615
Safety and loss control	1,284,918	1,162,990
Communications programs	183,351	172,351
Regulatory affairs	12,710	6,000
Investment income	40,535	36,293
Government relations	9,674	9,000
Rent	16,200	15,750
Other	21,619	33,153
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>5,701,069</b>	<b>5,266,125</b>

## EXPENSES

Program services:		
Education and training	855,644	818,433
Regulatory affairs	464,064	617,280
Safety and loss control	1,182,290	1,188,050
Communications programs	512,687	482,346
Government relations	595,795	595,797
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living	562,250	494,603
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>4,172,730</b>	<b>4,196,509</b>
General and administrative expenses:		
General office	911,828	823,246
Accounting	202,644	197,531
<b>Total General and Administrative</b>	<b>1,114,472</b>	<b>1,020,777</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,287,202</b>	<b>5,217,286</b>
Excess of revenues over expenses before unrealized gain on investment securities	413,867	48,839
Unrealized gain on investment securities	37,679	(100,453)
<b>Excess of Revenues and Support Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$451,546</b>	<b>\$ (51,614)</b>

The preceding condensed presentation of the 2023 and 2022 financial statements of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives has been extracted from the organization's annual financial statements. The complete presentation of those financial statements, along with the independent auditor's report of LWBJ LLP, is available by contacting the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.



**Iowa Association of  
Electric Cooperatives**

• A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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