

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



FEBRUARY 2019

Now taking applications for 2019 scholarships ▶ See Page 5

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Chariton Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
**leaders meet with  
lawmakers**



# Farm Bill provisions support rural economic development

BY BRYON STILLEY

As you may know, the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law in late December, providing some certainty and stability for the years ahead. We want to recognize the efforts of Sen. Joni Ernst, who served on the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee, for her tireless work in securing key provisions which will boost Iowa's ag industry.



We are also thankful to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for their advocacy efforts on our behalf.

There are several provisions within the \$867 billion Farm Bill that are very helpful to electric cooperatives as we work to modernize rural communities. In particular, funding for economic development efforts has been secured which will help electric co-ops across the country retain and create jobs in rural areas. Iowa's electric co-ops have been working

with the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) for decades to support economic development and job growth in rural Iowa. The REDLG program provides funding for rural projects through zero-interest loans to local electric cooperatives, which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The local businesses repay the lending co-op directly, and the co-op is responsible for repayment to USDA.

Before passage of the bill, future funding for the REDLG program was in question. With the 2018 Farm Bill now signed into law, REDLG funding has been secured so electric co-ops can continue to provide financing for job growth projects within and beyond our service areas. After the current formula for REDLG funding expires in 2021, the \$5 million of mandatory funding that Sen. Ernst helped secure will kick in. These funds will be in addition to the

traditional discretionary funds that are typically appropriated to the program, ensuring Iowa's electric co-ops can help fuel economic development well into the future.

This is great news for Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative and for the Iowa Area Development Group, the business and community development organization for Iowa's electric cooperatives, which provides technical assistance and development services to Iowa businesses and communities. We are proud that 20 percent of the REDLG funding from across the U.S., over the last year, was granted to our service territory. Participating in the REDLG program is a major component of our core cooperative principle to invest in the communities we serve. To learn more about REDLG eligibility and economic development services in our area, contact Tod Faris, member services & economic development manager at 641-932-7126 or by email at [tfaris@cvrec.com](mailto:tfaris@cvrec.com).

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

 Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
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## OFFICE CLOSING



# Office closed for employee training

The CVEC office will be closed for employee training on Feb. 18. Thank you for your cooperation.



# Legislative reception



Pictured from left to right are: Mike Miller, director/board president; Tod Faris, member service and economic development manager; Marchelle Brown, director; Wes Green, director; Rep. Holly Brink; Kenny Vandenberg, director/board secretary; Sen. Ken Rozenboom; Richard Welsh, director/board vice-president; and Becky DeTar, director/board treasurer.

On Jan. 15, board members and staff of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative joined Iowa's electric cooperatives for an opening week legislative reception. The event, which was held at the Iowa State Historical Society drew 175 electric cooperative leaders who had the opportunity for one-on-one visits with state representatives and senators.

"As the 2019 legislative session begins, it's important to meet with our lawmakers," says Mike Miller, CVEC board president. "We discussed issues that are important to electric cooperatives – such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, safety and reliability – while also letting our elected officials know that we are a trusted resource for electric industry information." ⚡

## Win four Wi-Fi enabled smart plugs!

Are you forever leaving the living room light on? Or maybe it's the



computer. If you forget to turn off these items before you leave for work, they suck up energy the whole time you're gone. With a smart plug like Apple's iDevices Switch, you can remotely cut power to these devices and save energy. The iDevices Switch works with Siri, Alexa and the Google Assistant, allowing you to control your home with the power of your voice.

Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) to enter the contest no later than Feb. 28, 2019. ⚡

## High school seniors: Don't miss your chance at a scholarship!

Are you – or do you know – a graduating high school or homeschooled senior? If so, apply now for a Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., scholarship. CVEC will be awarding \$5,5000 worth of scholarship money to graduating high school students this May!

Four \$1,000 individual scholarships will be awarded to students who will be pursuing a post-secondary education. In addition to that amount, CVEC will also award a \$1,500 individual scholarship to a graduating senior who will be majoring in electrical hot line work at an accredited line school or electrical engineering.

### Qualifications:

- The student must be graduating from an accredited high school or home-schooling program.

- Parents or legal guardians must be members of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.
- The student must be planning to attend an accredited institution of higher learning, including vocational school, technical school, junior college or university.
- The student must maintain a 2.5 GPA during the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year.
- The student must complete an application and a 500- to 600-word essay describing how electric cooperatives operate based on the seven cooperative principles. Tell which of the seven



- cooperative principles you think is the most important and why.
- All completed forms must be returned to the cooperative by March 30, 2019.

The selection of winners will be based on a combination of academic achievement, leadership and initiative, goals and aspirations, and prepared essay. The selection committee is comprised of local leaders throughout the CVEC service territory.

For more information check with your high school guidance counselor, call CVEC at 800-475-1702 or visit our website at <http://www.cvrec.com/content/scholarship-program>. ⚡

# There's still time to apply for the 2019 Youth Tour

Iowa's local electric co-ops believe in youth. That's why CVEC sponsors the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. – a weeklong summer trip that allows participants to explore our nation's historic sites and see the government in action.

### Who can attend?

Youth Tour participants are chosen by their cooperatives. High school students typically are eligible to apply during their sophomore, junior or senior years.

### Is it fun?

You bet – an action-packed week awaits! Tour historic sites.

Meet congressional leaders. Spend a day on Capitol Hill. Explore the Smithsonian museums. Take a cruise on the Potomac River. Make new friends from Iowa and across the nation.

### Don't miss the chance of a lifetime!

Become one of hundreds of Iowa youth who have experienced Youth Tour. You'll be glad you did!

### When does it happen?

June 14-20, 2019

### How do you apply?

For an application, click on the Community tab/Youth Tour link

on our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com), call Becky Teno at CVEC at 641-932-7126 or ask your guidance counselor at your high school. Your application must be received no later than Feb. 28, 2019. ⚡

**Former CVEC Youth Tour participant selected to statewide role**



See Page 3 for details.

IN THE NEWS

## Cooperative visit

Congressman Loeb sack visited CVEC on Jan. 18, to discuss the important issues facing his constituents and our members. Bryon Stilley, CVEC general manager, spoke at length about how the government shutdown directly affects the cooperative and the need for legislation to bring broadband to rural communities. We are pleased that our voices can be heard, and that Congressman Loeb sack will relay our messages to Congress. ⚡



**Pictured from left to right are: Heather Anderson, marketing and HR coordinator; Richard Welsh, board vice president; Congressman Loeb sack; Bryon Stilley, general manager; Becky DeTar, board treasurer; and Kenny VandenBerg, board secretary.**

## Top 10 Home Electrical Safety Tips

use a qualified electrician for repair work	repair loose outlets; replace cracked, worn electric cords	watch for hot or discolored switch plates, flickering lights, or buzzing sounds.
get regular check-ups for older homes	use bulbs with correct wattage for the fixtures	if children are present install tamper resistant outlets to protect against shock
use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring	unplug electrics if you smell something burning	keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas
educate the household on electrical safety		

Learn more about home electrical safety at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)