

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

June 2025

## Southwest Iowa REC would like to congratulate our 2025 scholarship winners! \$500 scholarships were awarded to fourteen high school graduates

**Brianna Mitchell, Stanton**

Daughter of Jason & Crystal Mitchell. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Exercise Science and Kinesiology.

**Anna Peterson, Stanton**

Daughter of Stephen & Rebecca Peterson. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College, then Northwest Missouri State University for Business.

**Rylee Grace, Diagonal**

Daughter of Mason & Jennifer Mercer, and Steven Grace. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Business, Nursing.

**Makenna Perkins, Central Decatur**

Daughter of Aaron & Raven Perkins. Plans to attend the University of Iowa for Neuroscience, Pre-medicine.

**Ambrose Savage, Lamoni**

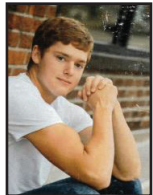
Son of Dave & Jill Savage. Plans to attend Central College for Business Management.

**Lauren Inman, SWV**

Daughter of Cole & Lisa Inman. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Nursing.

**Reagan Sonntag, SWV**

Daughter of Steve & Mikalah Sonntag. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Agricultural Business.

**Josh Schaefer, Creston**

Son of Kelly Schaefer & Dave Schaefer. Plans to attend Simpson College for Health & Exercise Science.

**Joseph Eivins, Central Decatur**

Son of Tracy & Trish Eivins. Plans to attend DMACC for Arts.

**Anna Bolinger, Creston**

Daughter of Wade & Angela Bolinger. Plans to attend Iowa State University for Elementary Education.

**Olivia Huntington, Mount Ayr**

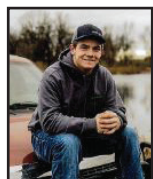
Daughter of Brenda & Carl Baker. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College to earn an Associate of Art.

**Morgan Shuler, SWV**

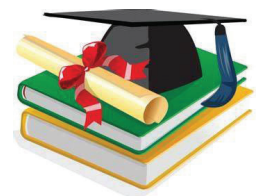
Daughter of John & Dawn Shuler. Plans to attend Iowa State University for Elementary Education.

**Brock Shaha, Mount Ayr**

Son of Travis & Judi Shaha. Plans to attend Upper Iowa University for Agricultural Business.

**Tucker Larson, Mount Ayr**

Son of Robby & Aimie Larson. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Agricultural Business.



## THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

## SURVEY

**Dear Valued Member,**

Southwest Iowa REC is seeking your feedback and opinions on our performance and how we can better meet your needs. Your feedback will be instrumental in shaping the way utility cooperatives serve their members in the future. This confidential survey will only take 5 – 10 minutes of your time. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey based on your experiences with Southwest Iowa REC.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Additionally, you may receive a survey notice via email from the following email address:

swiarec@smarthub.coop if you have provided an email address to us.

This email will be sent by Southwest Iowa REC.

Sincerely, Southwest Iowa REC

For technical help with the survey, please email [surveyhelp@cfigroup.com](mailto:surveyhelp@cfigroup.com)

Please use the following QR code to access the survey:



# Annual Meeting Information & Election Process



**Phil Kinser CEO**

The 22nd Annual Meeting of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Lenox Community Center on September 4, 2025. A major item of business at this meeting will be the election of three (3) directors to a term of three (3) years. The following information on the director election process and qualifications comes from the Bylaws of the Cooperative.

There shall be two (2) numbered Geographic Regions for the Cooperative, each of which shall be divided into four (4) Districts, and election of directors shall be by such districts, with one (1) director representing each District. In addition, two (2) at-large directors will be elected, one (1) from each Region. Directors shall reside in and receive service from the Cooperative at a location within the district (or Region in the case of at-large directors) they are elected to represent. The geographic area of each Region shall initially be as set forth in the Plan of Consolidation of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, and revised as necessary by the Board of Directors. The district boundaries shall be described hereafter in these Bylaws of the Cooperative and shown on a map of the cooperative service area, with such description and map maintained at all offices of the Cooperative and kept available to members.

Any member of the Cooperative shall be eligible to become a director if said member has a legal capacity to enter into a binding contract and said member's election as a director would not violate any other provision of the Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative.

**Additional Director Qualifications.** In addition to the foregoing, No Member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

- (1) within five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- (2) within five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative or the spouse of an employee of the Cooperative;
- (3) is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- (4) is a grandparent, parent, co-habitant, child, or grandchild of an employee of the Cooperative;

(5) is a person that is a grandparent, parent, co-habitant, child, or grandchild of an incumbent director whose district seat is not up for re-election at that time;

(6) is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;

(7) is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director;

(8) is engaged in conduct that is a violation of law or violation of a Cooperative policy or policies, or whenever a director has materially failed to satisfy his/her duties as a director, including the duty to regularly attend meetings of the Board of Directors; or

(9) is employed by, materially affiliated with, or has a financial interest in, any individual or entity possessing a conflict of interest with the Cooperative or a Cooperative subsidiary.

For purposes of this Section, financially interested shall not include beneficial ownership of less than 5% of the bonds or the combined voting power of all issued and outstanding voting securities of a publicly held corporation whose stock is traded on a major stock exchange or quoted on NASDAQ.

In regard to the restrictive provisions of this Section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected a director if, during a director's incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a party.

The following directors' terms expire at the Annual Meeting in September:

Terry Barnes (Region 1, District 4) – Ringgold County: Monroe Township, Athens Township, and Riley Township. Decatur County: Grand River Township, Decatur Township, Bloomington Township, Burrell Township, Eden Township, Woodland Township, Fayette Township, New Buda Township, Hamilton Township, and Morgan Township.

Alan Spencer (Region 2, District 8) – North Border: U.S. Highway #34. South Border: J20, U.S. Highway #48. West Border: Assigned Area of Service. East Border: U.S. Highway #71.  
Mark Herzberg (Region 2, At-Large) – All of the former service territory of Southwest Iowa Service

Cooperative.

Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee, which Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors, not less than sixty (60) nor more than one-hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected. The Nominating Committee shall consist of no less than three (3) nor more than ten (10) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the Committee to the geographical areas served by the Cooperative. Said Nominating Committee members so elected shall nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors and a list of the nominations so made shall be posted at the offices of the Cooperative no less than 45 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any twenty (20) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which directors are to be elected, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations by the Committee is posted; such nominations so made by such members to be subject to the same service location requirements as nominations by the Nominating Committee heretofore prescribed.

The election of the directors shall be by ballot, and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one ballot for each director to be elected from the member's Region. To the extent the same is specifically authorized by the Board of Directors, members may vote by mail-in ballot. The election of directors shall be subject to ratification by a majority of all members present at the Annual Meeting of members, and directors elected shall qualify and take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of Members.

If you are interested in being considered as a candidate for one of these director positions, and meet the requirements stated above, please contact Phil Kinser at 888-220-4869. Your name will be given to the Nominating Committee and they will contact you to discuss the matter further.

## 2025 scholarship winners!

Southwest Iowa REC also awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to individuals attending Powerline School or pursuing an Electrical Trades degree.



### **Owen Grundman, Lenox**

Son of Brooke Owen & Adam Grundman. Plans to attend DMACC for Electrical Utility Technology.



### **Devin Greenwalt, Southwest Valley**

Son of Lisa & Aaron Greenwalt. Plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College for the Powerline Program.



### **Ian Forsythe, Southwest Valley**

Son of Willard & Jessie Forsythe. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Electrical Engineering.

## EMPLOYEE UPDATES



**Lucas Brockshus**

Southwest Iowa REC Lineman from the Stanton office, received his 5-year service award. Congratulations Lucas, and thank you for your service!



**Nathan Weeda**

Southwest Iowa REC Lineman from the Mount Ayr office, received his 20-year service award. Congratulations Nathan, and thank you for your service!



### **Helvie Earns Trip to Washington, D.C.**

Congratulations to Ray Helvie of Corning for being selected to represent Southwest Iowa REC on this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Ray, a Southwest Valley Community High School sophomore, was selected by Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's random drawing. She will represent Southwest Iowa REC on an all-expense-paid trip to our Nation's Capital, June 15-21 with more than 1,500 students from all over the country. While there, Ray will meet with legislators, tour historic sites, museums, and memorials, meet other student leaders, and learn more about the history of the electric cooperative business model. Ray is the daughter of Les and Amanda Helvie.



### **Mark your calendars**

**For Thursday, September 4th, 2025  
for this year's Southwest Iowa REC  
Annual Meeting!**



**Like us on Facebook**





## Bloomin' Grilled Apples

### Ingredients

- 4 apples
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon-sugar
- 1/2 cup caramel, plus more for drizzling
- Vanilla ice cream, for serving

### Instructions

1. Slice off the top 1/4 of the apples and scoop out cores.
2. Using a paring knife, make a deep cut around the center of the apple.
3. Flip over apples and make narrow cuts all around, making sure to not cut through the bottom. In a small bowl, stir together melted butter and cinnamon-sugar. Brush apples all over with mixture, then fill center with caramel and pecans.
4. Wrap apples in foil and grill until tender, about 15 minutes.
5. Top with ice cream and drizzle with more caramel



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**Happy 4th of July!**  
Our office will be closed  
for July 4th

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**JULY**  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

### MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN



use extra caution when driving through these areas. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to keep your power safe and reliable.

### Tree Trimming Work in Union County

CR Environmental will be conducting tree trimming in Union County, south of Afton in the Arispe area. This work is part of our ongoing effort to maintain system reliability by reducing the risk of trees falling onto power lines during severe weather. Crews will be working near electric lines and may be positioned alongside roads and in ditches. For your safety and theirs, please

### Safety Tip

Only use a gas or charcoal grill outdoors. Grills are designed to be used outside where there is plenty of ventilation. Using one in a closed or partially enclosed space can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up and cause CO poisoning. Grill in the great outdoors.

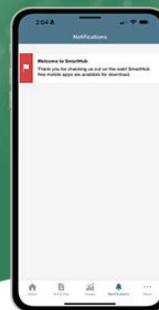


Safe  
Electricity.org®



### ALERTS & NOTIFICATIONS

Receive the information  
you need to make the right  
decisions about your account.



Visit [swiarec.coop/smarthub](http://swiarec.coop/smarthub) for more information.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Corning**  
1801 Grove Ave., Corning, IA 50841  
**Mount Ayr**  
1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854  
**Stanton**  
415 Broad Ave., Stanton, IA 51573  
**Phone Number: (888) 220-4869**  
**Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**Board of Directors**  
Marilyn Werner, President  
Mark Herzberg, Vice President  
Kay Fast-Deyoe, Secretary  
Jason Smith, Treasurer  
Alan Spencer  
Dana Morgan  
Bonnie Larson  
Adam Boswell  
Terry Barnes  
Dale Walkup  
Phil Kinser, CEO