

# Southwest Lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

March 2026

## Help us Find these Former Members

We are looking for the following former members of the cooperative. This month, we will be showing names listed A-J and next month we will do K-Z. These members have patronage checks at our offices. If the member is deceased, we would like to have a family member contact us with estate information so we can refund their patronage. Thank you for your help

ABELL	LISA	BRAND	RONALD	ELLIOTT	ALICE	HELTON	TONITA
ADAMS	MICHELLE	BREACH	FLOSSIE	ELMORE	AMANDA	HENDERSON	DAWN
AIRPORT	COLE	BRIANT	ROBERT	ERICKSON	ELDON	HENDERSON	J
AKERS	BONNIE	BROKAW	PHYLLIS	FAMILY TRUST	MARTENS	HENRICKSEN	JOHN
ALMQUIST	GARY	BROSHAR	FLOYD	FARMS	MEANS	HEUER	JENNIFER
ANDERSEN	CHRISTOPHER	BROTT	JEFF	FAUX	EVERETT	HILL	MARY
ANDERSON	KAY	BROWN	JASON	FELTS	TIM	HILL	ROWDY
ANDERSON	JERRY	BRYANT	PAUL	FICHTER	JAMES	HOCHSTEIN	DANIEL
ANDERSON	LARRY	BYRIEL	JO	FIENHAGE	VICTORIA	HOFFMAN	MARY
ANDREW	KEITH	CANOYER	KYLE	FILKINS	EVELYN	HOLLINRAKE	PAT
ANGUS	BOB	CECETKA	JAMES	FINDLEY	JAMES	HOMES LTD	WALTERS
ARMSTRONG	BERT	CHANAY	IRVEL	FLOWERS	DAN	HOMES OF IOWA	CUSTOM
ARNOLD	RICK	CHESKIEWICZ	SCOTT	FRISBIE	BOBBY	HOPP II	DONALD
ARTINO	WILLIAM	CHURCH	SCIOLA	FUDGE	JIM	HOUK	MIKE
BACON	JEAN	CLARK	SANDRA	GALLUP	SCOTT	HOUSTON	RAYMOND
BAIRD	BERNIECE	CLOER	DAVID	GARNER	LARRY	HOYT	CALLIE
BAIRD	JAMES	CLYMER	MITCHELL	GIPPLE	JAMIE	HUNT	SANFORD
BAKER	ROBERT	COLLIS	SHEA	GLASSINGER	DANNY	HUTCHINGS	TERRY
BALLAIN	WANDA	COLWELL	WENDY	GLASSINGER	TERRY	HUTCHINSON	EDDIE
BALS	HALEY	COMMUNICATIONS FRONTIER		GOBEL	VINCENT	INGRAHAM	JEREMY
BARNETT	DAN	COOPER	HAROLD	GOHLINGHORST	DAVID	JACKSON	DUSTIN
BARNETT	WILLIE	CRAIG	LARRY	GOHLINGHORST	CHARLENE	JACKSON	MATT
BARNUM JR	HARRY	CRUZ	ALEJANDRO	GOOD	TERESA	JAMES	GARY
BAYER	EUGENE	CURRENT	CHAS	GOODALE	OPAL	JERGENSON	LADEAN
BELL	DAVID	DAGGETT	MICHAEL	GOODNIGHT	RICK	JESINA	JASON
BENNETT	LOUIS	DALE	LOUVA	GOSS	JACKIE	JESSEN	TAMMY
BENTON	DARRELL	DANIELS	KEITH	GRAY	DANNY	JOCHIMS	JEFFREY
BEST FOOD LLC	SUN	DAVENPORT	FRANK	GRAY	KYLE	JOHN	HOWARD
BLADES	DAVID	DAVIDSON	WILLIAM	GREEN	THOMAS	JOHNSON	MERVYN
BLAIR	DUANE	DAVIES	LEO	GRIGGS	WILLIAM	JOHNSON	LAURIE
BLAKE	JEFFREY	DAVIS	LARRY	GUILFORD	GARY	JOHNSON	MARK
BLEAVINS	JOHN	DELOUIS	NICK	HALL	LINDA	JOHNSON	CHARLES
BLEECHER	CHRISTINE	DEMOTT	SCOTT	HAMILTON	CHARLES	JONES	RICHARD
BLOMBERG EST	ELMER	DOWNING	CHRISTOPHER	HAMMERS	HOMER	JONES	SCOTT
BLOSSER	JILL	DOYEN JR	CLEMENT	HARMON	SHAWN	JONES	DAVID
BOGDAN	JOHN	DRAKE	MERL	HARRIS	RICHARD	JONES	CHAS
BORER	CHRIS	DREVET	STEVE	HART	CATHY	JONES	JORDAN
BOWMAN	JOSH	DUKES	CHRISTIE	HEBENSBERGER	KENNETH	JORDON	ALEXIS
BP PRODUCTS	NORTH AMERICA	EIGENHEER	DUANE	HEIKEN	RANDY		

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Southwest Iowa REC gratefully supports our 16 linemen that maintain roughly 2,550 miles of power lines in our service territory and recognizing the risks they take to carry out their daily duties. We would like to take this opportunity on April 13th to acknowledge and appreciate those men at Southwest Iowa REC that work so hard to provide our members with safe and reliable energy 24 hours a day throughout the entire year!

### 2026 Policy Priorities for Electric Cooperatives

American families and businesses count on reliable electricity at a price they can afford. But with the demand for power continuing to climb and the supply of always-available power sources at risk, smart energy policies are more important than ever.

At Southwest Iowa REC, our job goes beyond keeping the lights on day to day. We are responsible for advocating on behalf of our members in Des Moines, Iowa and Washington, D.C., to make sure decisions being made at the state and federal levels protect reliable, affordable power in our local communities.



Phil Kinser CEO

As we head into 2026, America's electric cooperatives are focused on a few key federal issues that directly impact our members:

- **Faster Disaster Recovery:** We support the bi-partisan FEMA Act of 2025. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a critical partner in helping electric co-ops restore power and rebuild their systems in the wake of natural disasters, but it could be more effective and responsive to the needs of rural America. If the FEMA Act passes, it will help utilities restore power more quickly after storms and disasters—while keeping costs lower for rural families and businesses.
- **Cutting Through Red Tape:** Outdated and overly complex permitting rules slow down essential upgrades to power lines and substations. Streamlining these processes helps us keep up with growing demand and improve reliability. We're urging Congress to pass comprehensive permitting reforms, including the SPEED Act and PERMIT Act, both of which cleared the House in December.
- **Keeping Reliable Power Plants Online:** We're advocating for realistic energy regulations that don't force dependable power plants to shut down before reliable replacements are ready. Mandating emissions limits based on unavailable technology would force critical power plants off the grid and restrict the operation of new natural gas plants.
- **Maintaining Funding for Grid Innovation and Investments:** Federal loan and grant programs help co-ops strengthen the grid, prepare for extreme weather, improve cybersecurity and explore new energy technologies—without shifting costs to members.

At the state level, some of the issues we are monitoring are as follows:

- **Non-Utility Third Party (Community) Solar** – Non utility third party advocates have returned to the Iowa Capitol this year with legislation to establish a community solar program in Iowa. The proposal would allow private solar companies to develop large solar installations and sell shares of the generated energy to subscribers, who would receive bill credits in return. These companies could also sell excess energy back onto the market.

While the proposal doesn't allow their projects in Iowa Electric Cooperative territories, the Iowa RECs remain firm in their opposition. The program would shift utility maintenance costs onto non subscribers and, because these companies would not be classified as public utilities, the Iowa Utilities Commission would not have adequate oversight or authority over these solar companies. These concerns represent just a few of the issues Iowa's RECs have identified, and they will continue working throughout the session to ensure the legislature rejects non utility third party solar proposals.

- **Utility Worker Protection** – Over the past 18 months, Iowa RECs have documented at least ten incidents in which utility employees or contractors were threatened, harassed, or assaulted while performing their duties. Like other protected groups under Iowa law, utility workers are often required to enter hazardous situations to provide essential services. They are frequently among the first responders during storms and outages, working long hours in dangerous conditions.
- **Eminent Domain** – As the 2026 legislative session began, eminent domain issues were top of mind for many stakeholders, including Iowa's RECs. Iowa RECs have long prided themselves on their strong relationships with local landowners during land acquisition for electric infrastructure. This year, lawmakers have once again introduced legislation targeting hazardous pipeline projects in their eminent domain proposals. Iowa RECs will continue to monitor the issue closely to ensure that public utility infrastructure is not unduly impacted.

Stronger penalties are necessary to signal that harassment or assault against utility workers will not be tolerated. Workplace violence endangers lives, increases operational costs, and delays service restoration. Regardless of the outcome of this year's legislation, Iowa RECs will continue advocating for the safety of their workers as they keep power flowing to our most rural communities.

While you may not consider it on a daily basis, electricity is essential and underpins nearly every aspect of modern life. Understanding today's evolving energy landscape is important as it shapes how electricity is produced, delivered and consumed. Advocating on behalf of Southwest Iowa REC's members is a critical part of our commitment to you. These policy priorities all come back to the same goal: making sure our members have safe, reliable and affordable power—now and in the future.



## Transformer Delivered to Stanton Substation

A major equipment upgrade was recently completed at the Stanton Substation with the delivery of a new transformer. The installation marks an important step in maintaining system reliability and supporting continued service to our members.

The project was a coordinated effort among several partners. CIPCO was on site replacing a pole and installing a new high-side switch. Bruce Supplies and Construction coordinated crane services, bringing in Lift-All to complete the precision lifting required for placement.

We appreciate the professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by all crews involved in ensuring a safe and successful installation.

## 2026 Charges – Member Pricing at SWIREC

### Served Locations Only

#### LABOR – Regular Working Hours

\$77.00/hour 1 hour minimum

#### LABOR – After Regular Working Hours (Member Emergencies Only)

\$115.50/hour 2 hour minimum per employee – 2 employees required

#### TRUCKS/EQUIPMENT

Trip Charge \$40.00 per mileage vehicle required per job per day

Portable Trencher \$.75/foot

Trencher/Backhoe \$2.00/foot (\$250 minimum)

Basket/Digger \$80/hour

Boring Machine \$100/hour (\$350 minimum)

- 1 hour minimum on all truck charges
- Labor will be charged in addition to truck and equipment charges

**Call for non-member pricing quotes.**

## Director Nomination Process to Begin Soon

Southwest Iowa REC's board elections will be held at the annual meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026. Members will have the opportunity to vote by mail ahead of the meeting or in person at the meeting.

Serving on Southwest Iowa REC's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Southwest Iowa REC board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and direction
- co-op's community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op's role and involvement in economic development

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Southwest Iowa REC is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within community.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run for the board, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, we hope you'll consider serving on the Nominating Committee or running for a board position.

More details about Southwest Iowa REC's director election process for 2026 will be published in future newsletters.

## Complaints Resolution Process

Southwest Iowa REC makes every effort to resolve all complaints brought to its attention. You can contact us at 2248 Avenue of Industries, Corning, Iowa, or 1502 W South Street, Mount Ayr, Iowa. Or you can call (888) 220-4869.

If Southwest Iowa REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling (515) 725-7300, or toll-free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to [customer@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iuc.iowa.gov)

## WINTER MORATORIUM ENDS APRIL 1, 2026

For those members who are on energy assistance or have a past-due electric bill – please remember that you need to contact the REC office before April 1, 2026, to make payment arrangements on your past-due bill to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

## Chicken Florentine

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 large chicken breasts cut in half lengthwise
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 8 ounces white button mushrooms sliced
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 cups baby spinach

Enjoy!

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat 1 tablespoon butter and olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the chicken and cook until golden brown and cooked through. Plate the chicken and cover to keep warm.
2. Add remaining butter to same skillet over medium/medium high and cook the mushrooms until golden brown; approximately 8 minutes. Turn the heat down to low and add the garlic. Cook for 1 minute stirring constantly. Plate the mushrooms and garlic and cover to keep warm.



3. Add the wine and scrap to remove any browned bits from the skillet. Reduce the wine by half; approximately 3-4 minutes. Add the cream and let it simmer for about 15 -20 minutes; until is reduced by half. Slowly add Parmesan cheese stirring constantly until melted. Add spinach and cooked just until wilted. Place the chicken, mushrooms and garlic back in the pan. Cover and warm for 2-3 minutes.

### NOTES

Most chicken breasts these days are quite large. Cut them in half lengthwise they will cook better and they will still be more than an ample serving. The heat should be reduced when adding fresh minced garlic. Garlic burns easily so stir constantly. Cook mushrooms over medium to medium/high to ensure beautiful browning and to ensure that the moisture from the mushrooms is gone before adding the cream. Use heavy whipping cream. If you go with something lighter like half n half then you will need a thickening mixture like a slurry or a cornstarch mixture. Half n half will never reduce enough to thicken but heavy whipping cream will. Don't add the spinach until the very end It only takes a couple of minutes to wilt.

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



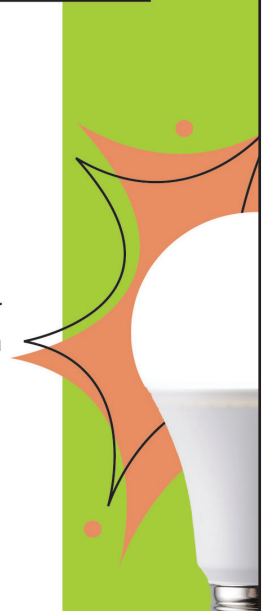
Scammers and cyber criminals look for weak points to exploit before software companies can fix them. Update software programs on your computer, tablet and mobile phone as soon as possible when a newer version becomes available. Software updates often contain critical patches and protections against security threats. Turn on automatic updates to automatically update your security software, internet browser, operating system and mobile apps.



Source: [consumer.ftc.org](http://consumer.ftc.org)

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



## March 8th Spring Forward



**SOUTHWEST IOWA**  
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**Corning**  
2248 Avenue of Industries., Corning, IA 50841

**Mount Ayr**  
1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854

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, Adam Boswell, Dana Morgan  
Justin Akers, Bonnie Larson, Dale Walkup

Phil Kinser, CEO