

WATTS *Current*

August 2016

For Our Members

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The Annual Meeting of the members of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will be held at the Palace Ballroom, 27317 Olde Farley Road, Farley, Iowa, at approximately 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2016, to take action upon the following matters:

- The reports of officers
- The election of three directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each
- Any other business that may legally come before the membership

Additional information:

The terms of the following directors expire upon the date of this Annual Meeting:

- Tom Stewart, Region 2 (Jackson and Clinton Counties)
- Ron Thielen, Region 3 (Dubuque County)
- Billie Zumbach, Region 4 (Delaware, Buchanan, and Clayton Counties)

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws:

- Tom Stewart, Region 2 (Jackson and Clinton Counties)
- Ron Thielen, Region 3 (Dubuque County)
- Billie Zumbach, Region 4 (Delaware, Buchanan, and Clayton Counties)

You are urged to attend this meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors, and transact such other business as may come before this meeting.

The Annual Meeting is conducted in English. If you are not conversant with this language and plan to attend, contact the Cooperative in advance so an interpreter can be provided. If you have any disability and need special accommodation to have a full and equal enjoyment of this program, contact the Cooperative prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

Dated at Anamosa, Iowa, this 1st day of August, 2016.
Gene Manternach, Secretary

Five Acres Provides Natural Niche for Meats

"We've tried to make the meat buying experience as easy as possible."

Bill Borrenpohl, La Motte
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Don't step into a flooded basement if there is a chance that flood waters may be in contact with outlets or electrical cords.

Safety MATTERS

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Director Candidates

Region 2

Jackson and Clinton Counties



Tom Stewart
Director
2200 325th Avenue
Preston

Wife: Linda, Medical Social Worker,
Genesis Hospital
Son: Andrew, University of Iowa graduate

- Operates a beef and cow-calf operation, raises corn, soybeans, hay, and oats on a 5th generation family Heritage Farm connected in 1938
- Jackson County FSA committee member
- Jackson County Zoning board member
- First United Methodist Church member, past Administrative Council Chairman and past chair of the Youth Board
- Jackson County Farm Bureau member
- Past President of the Jackson County Cattlemen Association
- Past Chairman of the Jackson County Extension Board
- MVEC member since 1982; Board Director since 2004; earned NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2006; earned Board Leadership Certificate in 2011 and Director Gold Certificate in 2016

Region 4

Delaware, Buchanan, and Clayton Counties



Wilhelmena (Billie) Zumbach
Director
3278 110th Avenue
Coggon

Husband: Doran
Children: 2
Grandchildren: 7

- Agriculture producer, specifically raising corn and soybeans with son, Mitchell
- Daughter, Nichole Harken, teaches communications at UNI
- West Delaware High School Graduate; Hawkeye Tech graduate; Certified Lab Assistant Degree
- 2-year employee of NEIFB Association; 26 year employee Farm Management Association; Bookkeeper for Kavalier Car Wash chain in Ryan
- Attends First Lutheran Church
- Past Delaware County Porkette Board member
- Past Leader Buffalo Belles 4-H Club
- Past Good Neighbor Society President
- MVEC member since 1978; Board Director since 2010; Finance Committee and Policy Committee; earned NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and five credits toward Board Leadership Certificate

Region 3

Dubuque County



Ron Thielen
Director/V.P.
946 St. Catherine Road
Bellevue

Wife: Lori, Rainbo Oil,
V.P. Strategic Initiatives
Children: Ali-Physician

Assistant student at University of Dubuque, Zach-4th year architectural student at Iowa State University

- Northeast Iowa Community College, AAS in Industrial Electricity
- National Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training graduate and Journeyman Electrician since 1988
- Employee of Westphal & Company, Inc. since 1984; currently serving as Vice President
- National Electrical Contractors Association representative
 - Dubuque Division, served as Chairperson from 2010 to 2012 and currently serving on the Apprenticeship, Pension, and Health & Welfare Committees
 - Iowa Chapter, currently serving on the Statewide Board of Directors as V.P.
- Member of St. Catherine Parish, past finance committee member
- Dubuque Area Labor Management Council, currently serving on Board of Directors
- Alliance for Construction Excellence (ACE) member
- Stonehill Care Center, Building and Grounds Committee member
- Past Commissioner for the Governor appointed Mississippi River Parkway Commission
- MVEC member since 1988; Board Director since 2004; V.P. since 2014; earned NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and continuing to pursue Board Leadership Certification



Summary of Articles and Bylaws

Member Qualifications

Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation provides that “any individual, firm, association, corporation, partnership, irrevocable trust or other business organization may become a member in this Cooperative by applying for a membership certificate in the Cooperative and meeting the following four qualifications: (a) the address and federal identification number of the applicant is not shared with another existing member, (b) an electrical meter of the Cooperative will be used solely by the applicant and shall not be shared with any other member of the Cooperative, except as between members holding a joint membership, (c) the applicant agrees to purchase *** electric energy*** and (d) the applicant agrees to comply with and be bound by these Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of the Cooperative, and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative. Any individual may act on behalf of a firm, association, corporation, partnership, irrevocable trust or other business organization as long as such individual provides the Cooperative sufficient documented evidence***that such individual has been granted proper authority to act on behalf of the member entity. Any two individuals may jointly become a member***. No member of this Cooperative may own more than one (1) membership and each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more.”

Annual Meeting

Article II of the Bylaws provides that an Annual Meeting of the members shall be held between August 1 and November 1 of each year with the exact date to be set by the Board of Directors. Article VIII, Section 3 of the Articles of Incorporation indicates that the members shall be entitled to receive ten (10) days written notice of the time and place of all meetings and of the purpose of all special meetings.

Directors

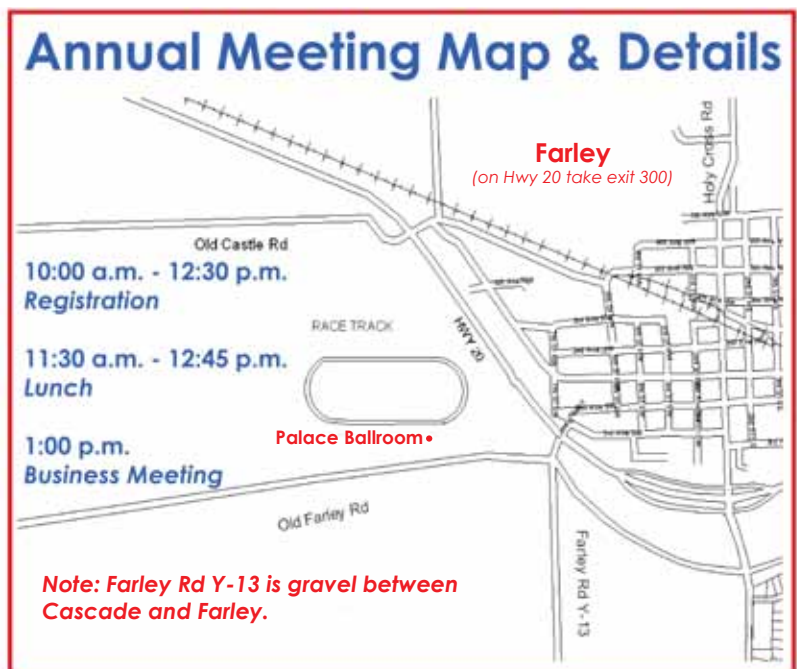
Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation provides the Board of Directors shall be made up of nine (9) members of the Cooperative.

The directors serve for a three-year term. Each year the terms of three directors expire on the date of the Annual Meeting.

Nominations and Election of Directors by the Members

Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation indicates- “The Cooperative’s service area shall be divided into four (4) numbered geographic regions. Two (2) members shall be elected from each geographic region***. The remaining ninth director shall be selected from any geographic region or the geographic region determined by the Board of Directors.***.” Article III, Section 5 of the Bylaws states, “Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee***. Any fifty (50) or more members may make other nominations in writing*** not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting***.” The election of directors shall be by ballot and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each director to be elected.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Cooperative office should you have any question concerning membership requirements or the procedure of nomination and election of directors at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.





Five Acres Provides Natural Niche for Meats

Grace Zimmerman, Anamosa, Iowa

I was greeted by Bill Borrenpohl on this warm sunny day at 23078 Centerville Road near La Motte, Iowa, as he had just arrived from his daily job of 17 years, a Forestry Engineer at John Deere in Dubuque. We started our tour and the first thing I noticed was two fluffy rabbits in a small caged outdoor pen. Bill informed me that the rabbits were a 4-H project for the children. As we walked the farm, Bill stated, “We own five acres,” as he pointed out the layout of where the animals were raised. “But, we rent more land which adjoins ours because of the importance of keeping pastures at rest as needed. Those four steers in the pasture are grazing on a rotation plan and are scheduled to furnish meat as they’re ready.”



A cow watching over her calf in a pasture.

We talked about their grass based diet and he added, “We supplement with a lite non-GMO corn ration. My customer base has specifically asked that we use non-GMO if possible and no growth hormones.” He also stated that they have used antibiotics to save a life but believe the pasture practices they use provide a healthy environment for cattle growth. “The last time I used antibiotics for my cattle was two years ago,” said Bill. As we discussed their meat business, he added, “We’ve tried to make the meat buying experience as easy as possible. We take care of all the processing communication and we deliver the finished product from the locker to the owners. I have been thanked many times for delivering. It really helps people fit a purchase like this into their busy schedules.”

Next, I was shown the goats section and Bill stated, “We have three nannies, one doe, and five kids raised for



Bill with one of the goats.

meat, and of course, they’re raised on the ‘sacrificial’ pasture and grains. It’s our natural aim of local food.” Bill brought one of the goats up to me. He held it in his arms as if it were one of his kids. Then he pointed out the hog area which was covered with a riotous blanket of pumpkin vines. Bill said, “We shipped out all of the hogs in the month of May. Our next batch of hogs will be ready later this fall.”



What a friendly pig!

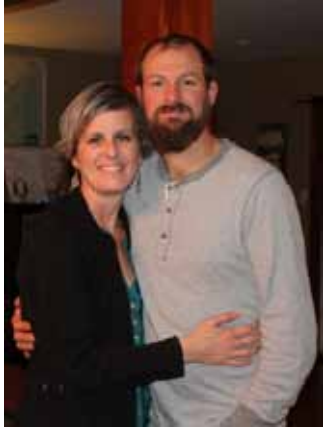
As we walked by a large pile of wood, Bill said, “Yes, we burn wood.” Next, we headed for a large machine shed. “It was here when we moved here; we purchased our five acres in 2011 and moved here in 2012,” explained Bill. Parts of it were exposed to open air space and I stood facing an assortment of breeds of open range chickens pecking at the food. There must have been at least 30 of them. He then took the time to get cracked corn from the large metal storage wagon to feed the goats, chickens, and roosters. Asking if I cared, he took time to go hither and yon in the building, he picked up the eggs—no cages, just their own little homey nests where they decided to drop the fresh eggs. Those 30 hens resulted in at least a dozen eggs.

Bill went on to say, “Roosters are for sale for meat. Some people like to butcher their own.” (I thought to myself that it can’t get much fresher than that.) “One of our great assets is our membership in the Practical Farmers of Iowa. They were organized in 1985 and have provided lots of guidance about raising hogs, raising cattle, pasture rotation, and animal care.” He also stated he likes to read *The Stockman Grass Farmer* for good articles that make you think about how you conduct your business.

At the end of the tour, Bill’s wife, Stacey, arrived home from her part time job doing human resources and accounting for a growing screen printing business in Dubuque. She remarked about how unusual it was that none of the four children were at home. This is their week at the grandparents!



Yes, I had to ask how they came up with such an unusual name for their business. Their answer was, “We chose a name that used our initials (William and Stacey). The name is also a nod to our Christian faith and desire to work together in this business as part of our marriage (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).”



Stacey & Bill Borrenpohl

Thus, she handed me an attractive post card with the name of their business, Woven Strong Farms, which stressed the definite attributes of purchasing ag products raised on their farm. Stacey then opened the freezer and said, “This is a package of one pound

brats and this one is rope sausage. You’ll notice this has a special label that is required by the state of Iowa to differentiate it from regular locker meat. That really notes the difference. You will know where your meat comes from.”

They both summed it up by saying, “Custom orders where customers can choose their cuts and processing requests are our way of serving them. You can order a whole or half of animal. We help you with the processing if you wish. Some growing seasons we are also able to sell smaller bundles under our private label for customers that only want a smaller number of pounds. Make a call to Bill at 563-663-7275, or Stacey at 563-773-8548. Visit www.wovenstrongfarm.com, or send an email to wovenstrongfarm@netins.net. We are thankful for Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative for our electric service, which is certainly an important part of raising a variety of animals in such a small farming area.

As their pride in their work and resulting products raised naturally safe, showed through their joy in working together and their words, I asked about welcoming visitors. Their answer was a resounding, “Yes, but call first and set up an appointment. We welcome FFA and 4-H clubs to tour a niche farming operation.”

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to Promote Power of Co-op Membership at Iowa State Fair

Members first. Every day. That’s the power of co-op membership. Not-for-profit electric cooperatives belong to the members they serve and focus on member needs and local priorities. Stop by the display in the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building sponsored by the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa at the Iowa State Fair, August 11-21, 2016.

Located inside the 4-H Exhibits Building on the south end of the fairgrounds, the display showcases all Iowa electric cooperatives on a map of Iowa. Magnetic “markers” are available to place on the state map to show co-op membership.

Fairgoers may register to win a Nest Learning Thermostat from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa. This latest



Mark your electric cooperative on the map and register to win a Nest Learning Thermostat.

technology programs itself by learning the temperatures you and your family like and then automatically following those preferences. The thermostat turns itself down when nobody is home to save energy. You can connect the thermostat to Wi-Fi to control temperatures from your phone, tablet or laptop. One winner of the thermostat will be chosen, at random, following the close of the fair. Additional energy efficiency and savings information will be displayed in the booth.

Cooperative members have a voice in how cooperatives are run, making sure their co-ops enhance quality of life by providing affordable electricity. Cooperatives encourage members to save money through responsible energy use and offer rebates on products and services members use every day.

Be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy display when you’re at the Iowa State Fair and go to touchstoneenergy.com for more information on how to save energy and the value of cooperative membership.



Solar Equipment 101

If a person had a Rip Van Winkle moment and fell asleep under a tree a decade ago, they would be amazed at how far solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have come. And they'd be right to feel that way as the technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Once the most expensive form of electricity generation, economies of scale in manufacturing and advances in technology are steadily driving prices down.

The typical PV system has two main components, the panels and the inverter. Disconnect switches are also necessary so the system can be safely isolated for maintenance and other reasons.

Let's take a look at the solar panels first. Each panel is composed of many smaller cells that are all connected and together produce a certain amount of direct current (DC) electricity. When the system is being designed, the number of panels used is determined by the amount of electricity required and the amount of space available to mount them. The collection of panels is called an array.

Since solar cells generate DC power, but our homes and businesses use alternating current (AC) power—the next major system component is the inverter. This piece of equipment converts the DC

electricity into AC power, which flows into your home. Like the panels, the inverters are evolving and becoming more capable with many now bearing the “smart” label indicating they can play an active role in the smart grid.

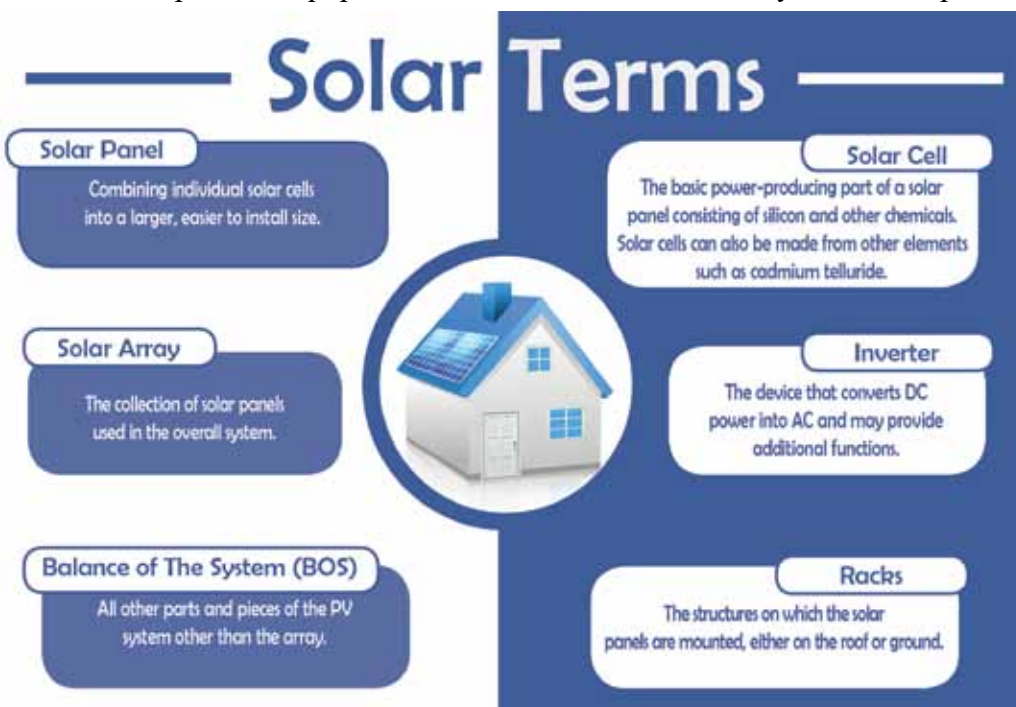
Many consumers are surprised to learn that heat has no part in the production of the electricity. In fact, solar panels increase in efficiency as temperatures drop. This often strikes people as odd since many solar arrays are shown in deserts and other hot, arid locations.

Scientists are constantly working with the solar cell components to develop more efficient and powerful combinations. Today, the best commercially available panels have an average efficiency around 17% with some high efficiency panels exceeding 21%.

PV systems are installed in what is called a grid-tied configuration. This means that the system will only operate when electricity is present on Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's power lines. When a power outage occurs, the inverter automatically shuts down the flow of electricity from the solar array. Without this protective feature, the PV system could potentially back feed electricity into

the Cooperative's lines, becoming a life-threatening danger to line crews and anyone in the area. When the inverter shuts down, the solar power stops flowing, so members should not install a system with the expectation that it will power their home or business during an outage.

While systems are sized to come close to the expected electrical needs of the member, there is no way to continuously match the output of the array to the current need for electricity. At times, the amount of solar





power will be more than needed. At other times, it will be less.

The Iowa Energy Center has published the Home Series: Solar PV Energy Guide in collaboration with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, Alliant Energy, the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, and MidAmerican Energy with information from the Office of Consumer Advocate and Iowa Utilities Board. You can find this guide at www.mvec.coop/energycenter. The information is well organized and easy to understand.

Those who are interested in a solar investment should talk to their cooperative at the beginning of the process. This is a critical step as it will enable a member to gain an understanding of rate structures, compensation for excess generation, interconnection requirements, and other vital facets of member-owned generation.

Solar PV has come a long way since first used on satellites in 1958. With this short overview, you now have a basic understanding of how these systems work. For more information about renewable energy systems for your home, contact Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's experts at 800-927-6068.

Safety Near Solar Equipment

When installing solar panels on or near your home, it's important to take precautions to protect against potential fire hazards. Minimize potential fire risks in your solar installation with these safety tips from safety.com:

- **Purchase quality components.** Nearly every documented case of fire caused by defective solar panels has occurred in cheap, off-brand equipment.
- **Hire an experienced installer.** A competent installer will make sure all electrical connections are properly installed and insulated to minimize fire risk.
- **Route cables properly.** Appropriate sized electrical cables should be mounted in closed metal conduits. No loose cables should be present. Cables should be routed outside the building or enclosed in a fireproof duct.
- **Protect inverters.** Your inverter should be easily accessible, protected from the weather, and kept away from combustible materials. Be sure to leave enough space around it for proper ventilation.
- **Inspect regularly.** Once or twice a year, a qualified solar inspector should examine the system for faulty connections, rodent damage or other fire hazards.

Source: safety.com

Pull the Plug

Do you have old appliances no longer in use and taking up space? We can help you recycle them! The Pull the Plug program pays you for saving energy responsibly. Sign up today by calling MVEC at 800-927-6068. Our program contractor, CLEAResult, will call you to schedule a collection time for your appliance to be recycled. Appliances in working condition will qualify for the following rewards: Refrigerator - \$35, Freezer - \$25, and Window AC - \$25. (Limited to three appliances per year.)



Watts The Answer?

1. Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will be holding its Annual Meeting on Thursday, _____ 18, 2016.
2. The Annual Meeting will be held at the _____ Ballroom in Farley, Iowa.
3. Registration for the Annual Meeting begins at ____ a.m. The Business Meeting will begin at ____ p.m.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to erobertson@mvec.coop.

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bills.

Please complete the following:

Name

Address

June winners:

Kara Burrack, Martelle

Verna Mae Johannes, Dyersville



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

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U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit 174



**MVEC will be closed
Monday, September 5,
in observance of
Labor Day**

Watts Current

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Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

Mailing Address:

109 North Huber Street • Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

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Dividend Questions
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