

# WATTS *Current*

January 2022

For Our Members

## Participate In Your Co-op's Next Annual Meeting

Your co-op's annual meeting is a great time for you - and all members of MVEC's communities - to catch up and enjoy some food and fellowship. This is also a time to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting your local communities.

Attendees can find out about programs offered by MVEC and get to know MVEC's staff members a little better. Annual meetings provide a forum for staff members to gather feedback and learn how they can better serve you and your family. It's also an opportunity to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. Your co-op's directors are members of your community and are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too. Remember, all members of your co-op are eligible to run for the board - including you.

MVEC remains dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric service, and you can help your co-op deliver on that mission. Make it a point to participate in MVEC's next annual meeting Thursday, August 18th, 2022. Contact MVEC for details.

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### NEW EMPLOYEES IN 2021

**Lane Henneman**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Isaac McAlister**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Peyton Rupp**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Jackson Wagner**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Christie Remley**  
Manager of Communications and Public Relations

**Joel Von Behren**  
Data Analyst

### 5 YEARS



**Tyler Bartholomew**  
Engineering Technician

### 10 YEARS



**Travis Manders**  
Lead Lineman



**Eli Hunerdosse**  
Engineering Technician Foreman



**Tony Sheridan**  
Lead Lineman

### 15 YEARS



**Keith Keltner**  
Senior Mechanic



**Jesse Kemp**  
Lead Foreman



**Al Schilling**  
Member Advocate

### 20 YEARS



**Jeff Geistkemper**  
Fiber Plant Manager



## Peosta-Based ProPulse Honored with Iowa Venture Award

On Thursday, December 2, MVEC had the pleasure of traveling to West Des Moines and celebrating Peosta-based ProPulse as they received an Iowa Venture Award from Iowa Area Development Group. The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunications companies, honored eight distinguished Iowa companies and leaders with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives’ annual meeting. This marks the 33rd year that IADG has presented Iowa Venture Awards to individuals and organizations, both large and small, in recognition of their significant contributions to Iowa's economy through entrepreneurial leadership, innovation and the creation of job opportunities. You can access the Iowa Venture Award Hall of Fame at [www.IADG.com/HallOfFame](http://www.IADG.com/HallOfFame) for a full list of honorees from all 33 years.

MVEC nominated ProPulse for this award because of the company’s growth and impact on our region’s economy. ProPulse, a Schieffer Company, began in Germany in 1923. In 1998, the third generation of Schieffers and managing partner, Jeff Theis, located their first U.S. manufacturing plant in Peosta. Starting with a 12,000-square-foot building, the

company has consistently grown and in 2015, they underwent a rebranding to become ProPulse. Combined with rental space, ProPulse has more than 135,000-square-foot under roof today and employs 130. ProPulse manufactures hoses and fittings for high-pressure fluid conveyance used mostly in industrial applications. They serve world class OEMs, including John Deere, Equalizer and Tommy Gate.

“The Iowa Venture Award Luncheon provides a forum to celebrate the courage, contribution, innovation, responsibility, and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs,” said IADG President Rand Fisher. “ProPulse is an industry leader that continues to expand their operation and provide excellent employment opportunities in Peosta and beyond.”

IADG is the business and community development leader for Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies. Since 1985, the partnerships and economic development efforts of IADG and their sponsors have assisted with more than 2,250 projects, generating in excess of \$13.2 billion of capital investment and over 54,500 new or retained jobs for Iowa.

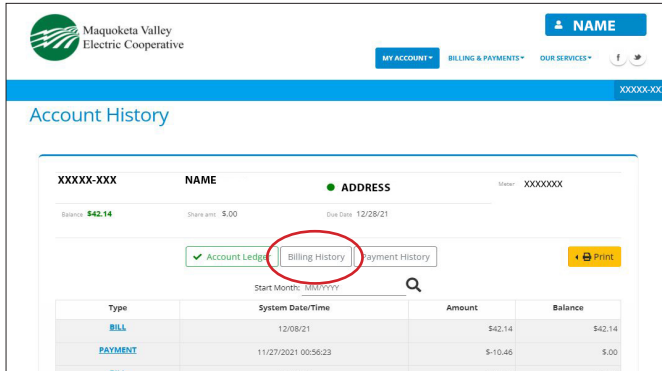


(Left to Right) Erik Spurling, Director of Sales & Marketing, ProPulse; Christie Remley, Manager of Communications, Maquoketa Valley Electric Coop.; Rand Fisher, President, IADG; Jeremy Richert, CEO, Maquoketa Valley Electric Coop; Jeff Theis, President & CEO, ProPulse; Dave Sabatos, Director of Product Management and New Product Development, ProPulse; James Haase, Supply Management, ProPulse; Jason Limmex, Supply Management, ProPulse; Larry Huinker, Plant Manager, ProPulse.



## Member Portal for Tax Prep

Working on your taxes? Use our member portal to access your billing/payment history for the past year. You can access the member portal by clicking on the green My Electric Account button on the top of any mvec.coop page.



## MVEC's CEO Appointed to TSE Board of Directors

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) is pleased to announce that CEO Jeremy Richert has been appointed to Touchstone Energy Cooperative's Board of Directors. Touchstone Energy (TSE) is a national brand that supports its network of electric cooperatives across 45 states in achieving outstanding member satisfaction through innovative partnerships, resources and services to help member cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their members. Richert's 3-year term on the TSE board begins in March of 2022.

"I feel MVEC's experiences can be beneficial in helping Touchstone Energy as it moves forward and evolves in the quickly changing utility environment. I look forward to the opportunity to bring my perspective to the Board to help navigate future opportunities for Touchstone Energy and the cooperatives it serves," said Jeremy Richert, CEO, MVEC.

**Iowa Builders and Contractors:**  
**Earn CEUs / Network / Learn New Techniques**

**MOMENTUM IS BUILDING**

February 3-4 in Altoona at The Meadows Event Center

[www.MomentumIsBuilding.com](http://www.MomentumIsBuilding.com)



## ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



### ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

### ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

### WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

### OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages



REBATES

## 2022 Residential



### APPLIANCE RECYCLING

<b>Geothermal Heat Pumps</b>	New closed loop	\$400/ton
	Unit replacement with existing loop	\$150/ton
<b>Air Conditioner</b>	Energy Star qualified	\$100
<b>Water Heaters</b>	Air Source Heat Pump water heater	\$650
	Electric storage water heater	\$75
	Storage water heater with desuperheater	\$150
	Electric storage water heater with first time Heat Plus*	\$125
<b>Level II EV Charger</b>		\$500
<b>Heat Recovery Ventilator</b>	Energy Star qualified	\$250
<b>Air Source Heat Pump</b>	Energy Star hybrid heat pump	\$100/ton +\$250 bonus
	Standard hybrid heat pump	\$200/ton
	Energy Star heat pump	\$250
	Standard heat pump	\$200/ton
<b>LED Fixtures</b>	Outdoor Energy Star or DLC rated	\$10-\$60/fixture
<b>Clothes Washer</b>	Electric water heater required Energy Star qualified	\$40
<b>Electric Clothes Dryer</b>	Energy Star qualified	\$20
<b>Weatherization</b>	Insulation and air sealing for homes built prior to 2000	Up to \$2200
<b>All Star Home Bonus</b>	Eligible for additional rebate	\$500
<b>Premier Electric Home Bonus</b>	Eligible for additional rebate	\$200



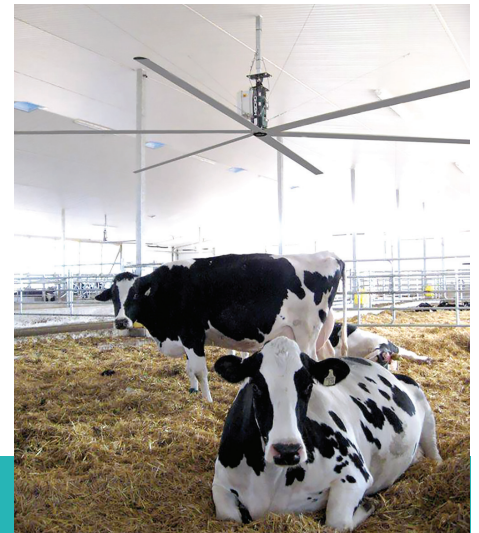
Call our toll-free Pull the Plug hotline at (855) 838-7817 to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner; up to three operable units per address. Pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor.

Refrigerator	\$35/unit
Freezer	\$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner	\$25/unit

\* Heat Plus rate is a promotional residential rate for electric heating equipment. For more details, requirements and Terms and conditions go here: <http://www.mvec.coop/rebates>

## 2022 Agriculture

<b>Agriculture Lighting</b>	Replacement only, Energy Star or DLC qualified	Varied
<b>Livestock Equipment</b>	Waterers, heating, lamps, pads, controllers	Varied
<b>Dairy Equipment</b>	Reclaimers, pre-coolers, pumps, compressors	Varied
<b>Livestock Ventilation</b>	BESS Labs listed	Varied



MacroAir

Research has shown that a cool cow is a productive cow and that milk production increases up to two pounds per cow when they are in a comfortable environment.

Energy-efficient HVLS fans keep cows cool by moving air more efficiently through barns and open-air sheds while keeping bugs, birds and dust under control.





# THINK SAFETY FIRST

## WHEN USING A GENERATOR

Keep this with your generator or emergency kit.



### FOLLOW THESE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS:

- Use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into a generator.
- Never plug a generator into your home's electrical system.
- Place the generator at least 20 feet away from windows or doors.
- This 20-foot rule also applies to a porch or garage (or any part of the home).
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated, dry area.
- If it is raining, place the generator under a stand-alone, canopy-like structure.
- Always direct exhaust away from the home
- Do not use a generator in a garage or carport.
- Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer.
- Keep your generator in proper working order.

Ensure that working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are located on every level of your home, and test them monthly. CO poisoning can happen quickly, and individuals exposed to the odorless, invisible gas may become unconscious before realizing they are experiencing symptoms such as nausea, dizziness or weakness. Or, they might not associate a symptom with CO exposure before becoming unconscious.

# NEW PROGRAM ENGAGES HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS

Rural Iowa high school students gathered for the first-ever Iowa Youth Leadership Academy (IYLA) in October as part of National Co-op Month. The virtual, three-part academy explored the cooperative business model, electric cooperative career opportunities, civic involvement and how to advocate for issues impacting rural Iowa. “The response was overwhelmingly positive,” says Shelly York, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) office manager and Iowa Youth Tour director. “We are encouraged by the level of student engagement and look forward to hosting IYLA again in 2022.” IYLA was developed by IAEC to connect with students while building momentum and excitement for the upcoming national Youth Tour trip to Washington D.C.



### BY THE NUMBERS

REGISTRATIONS: 133

SESSION 1 ATTENDEES: 75

SESSION 2 ATTENDEES: 65

SESSION 3 ATTENDEES: 54

ATTENDED AT LEAST ONE SESSION: 90

ATTENDED ALL THREE SESSIONS: 42

COOPERATIVES REPRESENTED: 23

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Kadence Parizek from Belle Plaine was randomly selected as the IYLA \$1,000 college scholarship winner! Students who attended all three virtual sessions were entered to win.

Recordings of the IYLA sessions are at [www.iowarec.org/youth-tour/iyla-resources](http://www.iowarec.org/youth-tour/iyla-resources).



# TECH LINK

## You've Signed Up for MVlink, Now What?

You just found out the exciting news that MVEC's fiber internet MVlink is now available at your address and you've made the decision to switch to the fastest, most reliable internet in the area. But what does the connection process look like and what can you expect? MVLink is a 100% fiber to the home system, no wireless, no use of existing Ethernet or copper cables, no shortcuts! MVEC is bringing the backbone of the internet (Fiber) into your home, and a variety of factors from weather, required installation equipment, length of the drop, among other things, will affect how long it takes MVEC to install the service.

### Connection Process

**1. Request & Sign Your Service Agreement:** This gives MVEC permission to install a fiber drop on your property and ensures you agree to activate service. Contact MVEC at 800-927-6068 or fiber@mvec.com to confirm service is available at your address and have the Service Agreement sent to you.

**2. Pre-Drop Appointment:** Typically, MVEC will contact you two days in advance of when we will be coming to your area to schedule this appointment. Note that this will be a 15-20 minute meeting during which an MVlink Technician will personally meet with you to review mapping/planning of how fiber will come onto your property. The purpose of this meeting is to determine where the best location for the modem/router will be in your home to provide you the best possible service and to walk out the drop installation on your property (outside). Once all that information is gathered, MVEC creates a "drop plan" that will be sent to our contractor who will then install the fiber from the main line to the exterior of your home.

*Tip: Prior to the Pre-Drop Appointment, start thinking about what existing facilities you currently have in the ground (Private electric, gas, communication cables, dog fences, tile, sewer & water lines). MVEC will pass that information on to our contractor.*

*Tip: Having the Modem & Wi-Fi router centrally located in your home is vital to providing the best possible service. Your basement may be where your equipment is now, but obstacles like hardwood & ceramic flooring, brick & concrete walls and other Wi-Fi signal-killing home products should be considered when making the decision on where to install your modem & router. MVEC does offer a "Mesh" Wi-Fi unit to extend coverage throughout your home. (Consult your in-home installer during the install or call MVEC for more information).*

**3. Drop Construction:** MVlink contractors will install the drop on your home/building either underground or overhead, determined during the Pre-Drop Appointment. Once contractors have construction completed (fiber run to the home), the splice crew will then splice and test your fiber (confirming live connection to your home) and send the test results to MVEC triggering the next step.

### In-Home Installation Process

**4. Schedule Installation Appointment:** When we receive your test results from our contractor, MVlink Customer Service will contact you to review the scheduling process. This is a 10-15 min. call where you will want to note important privacy information that is related to setting up your secure account.

*Tip: If MVlink customer service leaves you a message to schedule this appointment, call MVEC's office from the privacy of your own home (for questions related to account setup).*

*Tip: Add all appropriate authorized users to your account (anyone from your business or home who should have the ability to contact MVEC/MVlink about service or billing).*

*Tip: MVEC offers a Wi-Fi router for \$4.99/mo. for which you can download a free Managed Wi-Fi app. We highly recommend this service as it allows MVEC technicians and customer service reps to better assist you when you are having Wi-Fi issues.*

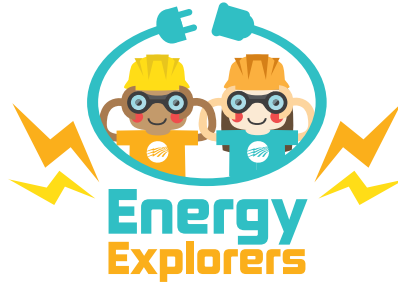


**5. Installation:** You are required to be present during the approximate two-hour on-site installation (that occurs inside your home or office). Installations are scheduled Monday-Friday during business hours of 7:30 am-4:00 pm.



# WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD

Did you know there are several ways you can fight the winter chill *and* save energy at home? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how to save energy during winter months.



**1 Down:** Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow \_\_\_\_\_ in to warm your home.

**2 Across:** If you have a \_\_\_\_\_ at home, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.

**3 Down:** Unplug phone and tablet \_\_\_\_\_ when they're not in use.

**4 Across:** Instead of turning up the thermostat, wear additional layers of \_\_\_\_\_ to stay warm.

**5 Down:** Always turn off \_\_\_\_\_ when you leave a room.

**6 Across:** Ask an adult to check the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for your home's heating system. This should be replaced regularly.

**Answer Key:** 1 Down) sunlight 2 Across) fireplace 3 Down) chargers 4 Across) clothing 5 Down) lights 6 Across) air filter

## Watts The Answer?

1. Annual meetings provide a forum for staff members to gather feedback and learn how they can better \_\_\_\_\_ you and your family.

2. Working on your taxes? Use our member portal to \_\_\_\_\_ your billing/ payment history for the past year.

3. But what does the connection process look like and what can you \_\_\_\_\_?

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to [efletcher@mvec.coop](mailto:efletcher@mvec.coop)

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

Please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

November winners:

Elaine Willenbring, New Vienna  
 Jerry Lynch, Bernard

## December MVEC Board Update

- Reviewed outstanding loan balances and interest rates of MVEC loans.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved proposed 2022 Capital and Operating Budgets.
- Reviewed the updated financial forecast with proposed 2022 budget scenarios.
- Discussed the PURPA Distributed Generation Joint Use Agreement between MVEC and its generation and transmission provider (CIPCO).
- Reviewed CIPCO cost of service study and potential impacts it could have on MVEC rate structures.
- Discussed cybersecurity and were given an update on cybersecurity programs in place by MVEC's Director of IT.
- Reviewed the recently developed Crisis Communications Plan that will be incorporated into the Cooperative's Emergency Response Plan.



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

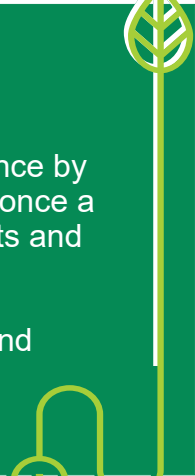
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Cedar Rapids, IA  
Permit 174



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.




Source: Dept. of Energy

## Understanding Your Electric Bill



**ON-PEAK** hours are 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
**OFF-PEAK** hours are  
Midnight - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Midnight  
*These times are in effect every day.*

## Watts Current

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