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Energy INSIDER

SEASON OF SAVINGS:
⚡ 'Sleigh' high water heating costs this winter,
see page 4 for more information

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MIDLAND POWER COOPERATIVE • MIDLANDPOWER.COOP • NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023

Fire postpones training field ribbon cutting event



A fire that ripped through Midland Power's Boone warehouse last month forced the co-op to postpone their line worker training field dedication.

The 7,500-square-foot warehouse located adjacent to the Boone administrative office caught fire Thursday, October 19, around 3:30 p.m. The building was unoccupied when the fire broke out and no employees were injured.

The building, as well as two pickups, an SUV, a skid loader, and a forklift, were destroyed. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

While the warehouse was a total loss, the adjacent Boone administrative office was undamaged and remained open for regular

business hours.

The fire had no impact on electric service and hasn't affected the co-op's ability to respond to future unplanned power outages.

"We're extremely grateful to the Boone and Ogden Fire Departments for their rapid responses and outstanding work," said Midland Power CEO Bill McKim. "We appreciate their courage and dedication to protecting public safety. I'm especially thankful that no one was injured. While a building can always be replaced, our employees and brave firefighters cannot."

The training field dedication will be rescheduled in the coming months and announced in a future issue of **Energy Insider**.

Midland EV Task Force hosts focus group dinners

Midland Power's EV task force hosted two focus group dinners in October to gain insight and understanding from both current and prospective EV owners.

Two dozen members participated to discuss everything from possible EV programs to alternative rate structures.

"As a member-owned electric cooperative, we want to make sure we're prepared for the anticipated increase in electric vehicles," said EV Task Force Chair and Energy Services Advisor Larry Beilke.

"We recognize that the growth of EVs poses both an opportunity and a challenge for the co-op. These focus groups help us better understand how to design future programs to ensure we can accommodate more EVs while also maintaining the reliable and affordable power our members depend on."

To help educate members about electric vehicles, Midland Power recently added a suite of EV calculators and resources to the co-op website. They can be found at MidlandPower.coop/EV.



Energy Services Advisor Larry Beilke presents at a recent EV focus group dinner.

PICTURE THIS!



Midland Power's Energy Services Advisor Larry Beilke recently paid Humboldt members Jerry and Helen Haverly a surprise visit to present them with a special gift.

A photo of Jerry taken at the 2022 Humboldt member appreciation event was prominently featured on this year's marketing materials.

He was such a good sport about letting us use his picture, that we decided he needed his own canvas version!



Happy Holidays!

Our offices will be CLOSED in observance of holidays on the following dates:

November 23 & 24, December 22 & 25, and January 1

SHINING THE LIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY'S BEST

Each year, the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa highlight outstanding volunteers across Iowa who make a profound difference in their communities.

Midland Power Cooperative members nominated six such individuals.

We are proud to recognize them with a \$250 donation to their respective organizations.

A special thanks to wholesale power provider **Central Iowa Power Cooperative** for agreeing to match our donations in support of the vital work of these volunteers.



Midland member Frederick Gulden of Ames alongside All Aboard for Kids Founder (and Midland member) Lisa McCarty.

Nominee: Lisa and Mike McCarty of Ames
Organization: All Aboard for Kids
Website: AllAboardForKids.com

Nominators: Frederick Gulden of Ames and Sean Dowling of Story City

After recognizing the need for well-rounded, engaging, and fun summer programs for their own children with autism, Lisa and Mike McCarty took it upon themselves to create All Aboard for Kids. The organization's summer programs provide opportunities and resources that support families and individuals living with autism spectrum disorder, accepting autistic youth where they are and extending their potential in a safe and structured environment. The programs feature certified lead educators and specially trained support classroom staff.

All Aboard for Kids' programs focus on a STEAM-based curriculum (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and workplace readiness for teens and young adults with the goal of helping develop academic, interpersonal, self-advocacy, and critical life skills.



Roland-Story Kiwanis' Andrew Webb and Midland member James Hassebrock.

Nominee: Andrew Webb of Roland
Organization: Roland-Story Kiwanis
Website: N/A

Nominator: James Hassebrock of Roland

As the driving force behind the Roland-Story Kiwanis club for the past many years, Andy Webb has a way of motivating and inspiring fellow members to work toward the betterment of the Roland and Story City communities.

Among his numerous endeavors, Andy has worked to support educational and youth programs, providing dictionaries annually to third graders, and raising funds for scholarships for graduating seniors. He's also helped lead numerous fundraising events to support the annual Scandinavian Days community festival, the school fine arts foundation, improvement projects for local parks and playgrounds, and the annual high school softball tournament.

A tireless advocate for his community, Andy has served as the mayor of Roland since 2017.

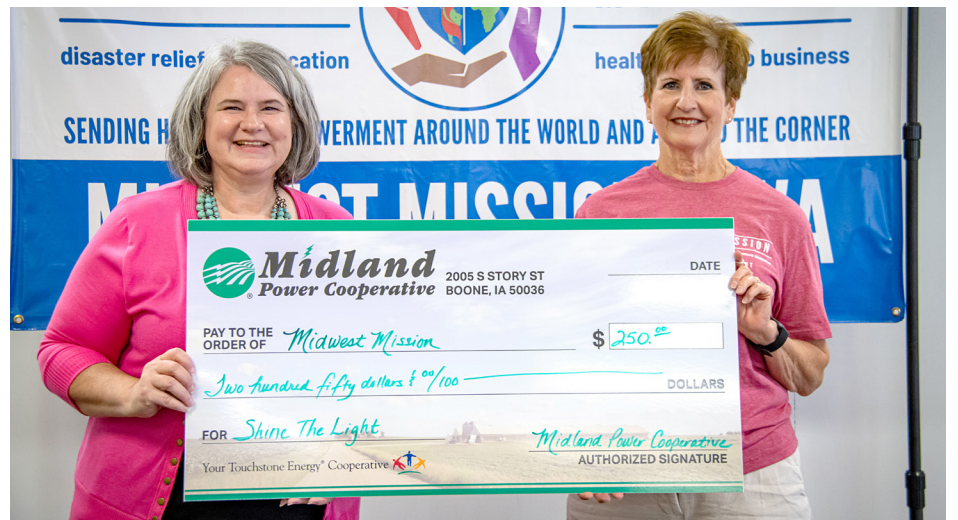


Midland member Kathy Nelson and American Legion Post #334 Secretary Kirby Christensen.

Nominee: Kirby Christensen of McCallsburg
Organization: American Legion Post #334
Website: IALegion.org
Nominator: Kathy Nelson of McCallsburg

Kathy writes "Kirby has been a vital member of our community for many years... as evidenced by his involvement with many organizations. He has been the church organist for over 53 years, rarely missing a Sunday service. He has volunteered as a church trustee, plays the organ and piano for annual bible school programs, volunteers his time to rock babies at the daycare in our community... and has been a member of the American Legion for over 20 years."

From ordering and setting out flags at the cemetery each Memorial Day, to helping with local nonprofit fundraisers, Kirby is a beloved community member, always willing to lend a hand for the betterment of his town.

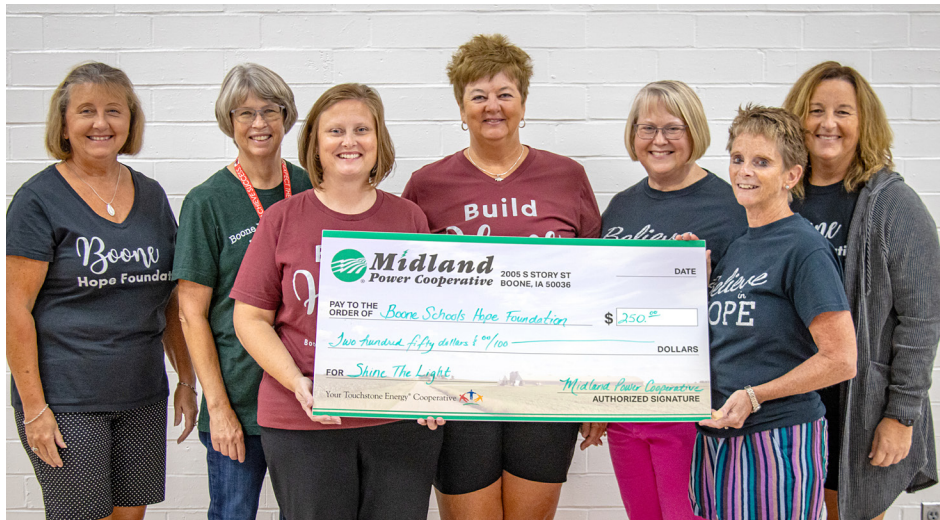


Midland member Danille Curtis and Midwest Mission Distribution Center volunteer Vicki Tronchetti.

Nominee: Vicki Tronchetti of Jefferson
Organization: Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Website: MidwestMission.org
Nominator: Danille Curtis of Gowrie

Whether around the corner or around the world, Vicki Tronchetti is always ready to roll up her sleeves and lend a helping hand. When Illinois-based Midwest Mission began exploring opening a second location in Iowa to further its mission of providing domestic and global disaster relief, health, education, and micro-business opportunities, Vicki was at the forefront.

Through her countless hours of volunteerism, recruiting additional volunteers, and securing donations, Vicki played a crucial role in convincing Midwest Mission to locate in Jefferson. Since then, Vicki has continued to support the organization, helping to open their new location, and enabling them to increase the number of lifesaving relief shipments.



Boone Schools Hope Foundation President Sue Gradoville (second from the right) alongside fellow volunteers.

Nominee: Sue Gradoville of Boone
Organization: Boone Schools Hope Foundation
Website: BooneHope.org
Nominator: Joann Uthe of Boone

A middle school counselor for 26 years, Sue Gradoville wasn't about to let retiring get in the way of continuing her lifelong work to improve the lives of area youth. For more than 20 years, Sue has volunteered with the Boone Schools Hope Foundation, where she currently serves as board president.

The foundation empowers families facing a financial emergency to ensure that students' and families' basic needs are met. This support could take many forms, including helping pay for rent, utilities, food, gas, medical bills, car repair, or other essential expenses.

Sue also serves on several other local boards, including the YSS of Boone County community advisory board, and serves as the vice president of the Ericson Public Library board.



Humboldt County Outreach Specialist Danielle Rees, food security advocate Jim Danzl, and Midland member Jaclyn Lerdal.

Nominee: Jim Danzl of Humboldt
Organization: Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry
Website: UDMO.com
Nominator: Jaclyn Lerdal of Humboldt

As a leading advocate for combating food insecurity in Humboldt County, Jim Danzl is described by those who know him as "kindhearted" and "generous." Shying away from public recognition, Jim prefers to work behind the scenes to help area families ensure they can put food on the table.

Jim volunteers his time on a nearly daily basis to organize food distribution and make deliveries, maintain the downtown Humboldt food pantry, and offer guidance based on his professional experience.

His work in support of the Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry, the Humboldt County Mobile Food Pantry provided through the Food Bank of Iowa, and the F.U.E.L. (Food. Uplifting. Essential. Learning.) program for students and their families in the Humboldt School District continues to make a vital difference in his community.

Green Pricing Program

Midland Power has been offering an alternate energy purchase program to its members since 2004.

This program allows individual members the ability to voluntarily contribute to a fund. All of the money collected from members will be used for the development of alternate energy production facilities in Iowa. Alternate energy production facilities may include wind energy, biomass, solar, and other nontraditional generation technologies.

Through this program, members will not be directly purchasing alternate energy, but rather

participating in the development of these resources. Contributions may be retained until they reach a sufficient level to pursue a particular development, make a grant to another entity pursuing alternate energy development in Iowa, or arrange for purchases from alternate energy production facilities.

For members interested in purchasing renewable energy directly, Midland also offers a community solar program.

To learn more about these programs, please call our office at **(800) 833-8876** or visit **MidlandPower.coop**.

Scholarships available

Midland takes pride in helping develop leaders in our region.

We offer scholarships to recognize academic and community achievements made by young people in the communities we serve. Midland Power is accepting applications for three \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to 2024 college-bound students.

These are considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas. Applicants only need to apply once to be considered eligible

to win any of these three scholarships.

Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an essay on a given topic.

Find out more information and the application at **MidlandPower.coop/Scholarships**.

Applications are due by January 31, 2024.

Sub upgrades near completion

Improvements key to enhanced reliability



While power lines may get all the glamour, substations are really the heart of Midland Power's distribution system.

In recent years, the co-op has been investing in updating the co-op-owned substations within the southern portion of our service area. These upgrades enable Midland to utilize Central Iowa Power Cooperative's increased transmission capacity.

This year, the Stratford substation in Stratford is undergoing a complete rebuild, increasing its nameplate capacity to 5 MVA to allow for future load growth. The substation is scheduled to be reenergized by year's end. In addition, the Berkley substation located northwest of Berkley underwent conversion from 34.5 kV to 69 kV.

Over the next few years, Midland will continue to upgrade our distribution substations. These im-

provements will enable Midland to continue providing reliable service while strengthening the backbone of the system.

While substations may look benign, they are critical to the delivery of electricity.

By sending electricity at higher voltages, transmission providers can minimize line loss. However, to effectively distribute this power to area homes, farms, or businesses, that electricity has to be stepped down to lower voltages. Substation transformers perform this vital function.

Besides transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices, and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur.

Due to their dangerous nature, substations should never be entered without the co-op's authorization and proper protective equipment.

Children should be taught to never play near substations and to never climb their fences or attempt to enter to retrieve a ball, pet, or toy.

If you see suspicious activity or notice an issue at one of our substations, please call us at **(800) 833-8876**.



LED HOLIDAY LIGHTS REBATE COUPON - \$2/STRING
(Up to 5 strings per member)

To apply for a rebate, complete this coupon, attach your original sales receipt showing the number of strings purchased, and return to Midland Power by January 31, 2024.

Rebates will be credited to your Midland Power account.

Member Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Account # _____
(Account number as listed on your electric bill where the credit is to be applied)
 Number of LED holiday light strings _____
(maximum rebate is for 5 strings which totals \$10)

Mail to: Rebates, Midland Power Cooperative • PO Box 368 • Boone, IA 50036

Midland Power Co-op welcomes new utility engineering manager



Midland Power Cooperative welcomed **Johanna James** to the co-op recently as their new utility engineering manager. In her position, James will design new distribution facilities, prioritize and plan system upgrades, and oversee the development of short and long-range work plans to ensure ongoing system reliability.

A graduate of Iowa Falls-Alden High School, James attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology where she earned a bachelor of science degree in mining engineering and an engineering management and leadership certificate.

After graduating, James spent the first half of her career working offshore on oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico before accepting a position with GE Renewable Energy where she managed wind turbine facilities across Iowa and Wyoming. It was there she was introduced to the utility industry, going on to work for Black Hills Energy as an operations manager, overseeing multiple natural gas power plants and wind farms in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Please join us in welcoming Johanna to the Midland Power team!

Sales tax exemption for Iowa farmers

Iowa farmers may qualify for a state sales tax exemption on electricity consumed for processing and production by filing an exemption certificate with Midland Power Cooperative.

Fuels, including electricity, used directly in processing and production on the farm are exempt from state sales tax. Also included under the definition of agricultural production is the production of flowering, ornamental, and vegetable plants for sale in commercial greenhouses or other places in the ordinary course of business.

Electricity used for the home, farm shop,

recreation, hobbies, or outdoor lighting is taxable.

The key to receiving the exemption is documentation. If having a separate meter for farm use is not practical, a list of the equipment used for farm production is necessary. Visit Midland Power's website at **MidlandPower.coop** and click on the Iowa Sales Tax Exemption Form under "My Account" for the required sales tax exemption form. We can also help you determine what information is needed.

Information is also available on the Iowa Department of Revenue's website, **tax.iowa.gov**.

Two new calculators featured on Midland Power website can help plan for energy savings

Find Midland's Solar Calculator at **MidlandPower.coop/SolarCalculator**



Find Midland's EV Calculator at **MidlandPower.coop/EV**

2023 patronage



1.2 million reasons it's great to be a Midland member!

Being a member of an electric cooperative has its benefits - \$1.2 million benefits! Midland Power's board of directors has approved distributing \$1.2 million in patronage capital to co-op members and former members.

Current members that purchased electricity from the cooperative in 2006, 2007, or 2022 will receive their portion of the 2023 patronage retirement by bill credit in December, unless they're due \$500 or more. Current members eligible to receive \$500 or more will be sent a check in late November.

Inactive members - those no longer purchasing power from the co-op - will receive their patronage retirement by check as well.

Members must notify Midland of any address changes in order to receive their check.

TOTAL ELECTRIC CHARGES	\$182.15
GREENE COUNTY TAX 1.0%	\$1.82
PATRONAGE DIVIDEND RETIREMENT	\$38.13CR
CURRENT CHARGES	\$145.84

ACTUAL AMOUNT WILL VARY

PUT SOME SAVINGS IN YOUR STOCKING THIS CHRISTMAS!



MIDLAND POWER OFFERS OUR MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT PRICING ON HIGH-EFFICIENCY MARATHON WATER HEATERS.

PRICES ARE SET TO INCREASE ON JANUARY 1, 2024, SO NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO UPGRADE AND START SAVING ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS!

LEARN MORE AT **MIDLANDPOWER.COOP/WATERHEATERS**

- 50 GALLON: **\$450**
- 50 GALLON (SHORT): **\$500**
- 85 GALLON: **\$650**
- 105 GALLON: **\$850**

Member pricing assumes all incentives/agreements and is not eligible for an additional rebate. Member pricing as of January 1, 2023, subject to future change.

Midland Power Cooperative Offices

- Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 2005 S. Story Street, Boone, Iowa
- 1210 13th Street North, Humboldt, Iowa
- 1001 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson, Iowa

Give Us a Call 24/7!

- Toll Free: 800.833.8876
- Automated Pay-By-Phone 888.470.4623

Find Us Online!

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- X.com/Midland_Power

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