

Chuck Long delivers inspirational speech at annual meeting

Whether you are a Cyclone or Hawkeye fan made no difference to the message Chuck Long, former Hawkeye football quarterback, delivered to members at Franklin REC's annual meeting Tuesday evening, April 4. Long spoke to nearly 250 people, including 106 registered co-op members.

Back in 1985, Long played quarterback for Hayden Fry and was a Heisman Trophy finalist. After college he played professionally and coached several college teams before becoming the CEO and Executive Director of the Iowa Sports Foundation in 2014. The foundation runs the Iowa Games, the Senior Games, Adaptive Sports Iowa, and the Live Healthy Iowa challenge.

Long's leadership experiences taught him many skills that he encourages others to follow. These include his personal "P's of Success" that focus on preparation, positivity, perspective, powerful communication, and persistence. In his speech, he also shared his "Power 6" keys with the audience. These are: 1. Show up on time; 2. Offer a firm handshake with a smile; 3. Do what you say you will do; 4. Finish the job; 5. Say please and thank you; and 6. Build relationships and social responsibility.

Prior to Long's speech, David Keninger, board secretary/treasurer, reported that the cooperative is in good financial standing. Becky Bradburn, general manager, then shared news about the community solar project and the upcoming meetings for members interested in participating. Bradburn also thanked the linemen for their hard work and recognized National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 10.

Registered members in attendance re-elected incumbent director Gordon Meyer of Latimer to serve a three-year term on the board of directors.

Gordon Greimann, board president, introduced the 2016 Youth Tour winner, Collin Meints, a junior at West Fork High School in Sheffield. Meints shared highlights of his trip and thanked members for giving him an experience he will never forget.

Greimann also introduced scholarship winners of the Basin Electric Power scholarship and Franklin REC's Commitment of Community scholarship.

At the close of the meeting the following members won prizes:

- Chuck Long Autographed Baseball Cap - Barb Stockdale
- Chuck Long Autographed Football - Merna Yakel
- Chuck Long Autographed Kinnick Stadium Print - Corey Eberling
- \$25 cash prizes - Clarence Moore & Gary Brower

Names were also drawn to award two couples free Energy Trail Bus Tours to Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, North Dakota later this summer. Winners are Tom and Tracy Madden and Lyle and Nancy Watt.

The board of directors then held an organizational meeting and elected the following officers: Gordon Greimann, president; John Snyder, vice-president; and, David Keninger, secretary-treasurer.



Chuck Long (center) with Becky Bradburn, general manager, and Kreg Menning, crew chief, who arranged Long's visit as the featured speaker for the annual meeting.



Chuck Long autographed items for members after the meeting.

An active Iowa Capitol during REC Day on the Hill



Attending REC Day on the Hill (from left): Vicki Daily, general manager, Grundy County REC; Kevin Prusiner, president, Grundy County REC; Dean Fisher, Iowa House representative; Vickie Fisher, Representative Fisher's assistant; Larry Rohach, assistant secretary-treasurer, Grundy County REC; Pat Von Ahnen, secretary-treasurer, Consumers Energy.

More than 200 cooperative supporters traveled to Des Moines on Wednesday, March 22, to advocate on behalf of Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives. It was a day full of government activity, starting with the reading and passage of House Resolution 14 on the house floor, which commemorated the important role of Iowa's electric cooperatives as it pertains to economic development and improving the qual-

ity of life for rural Iowans. Later that morning, cooperative representatives were present as Governor Branstad signed SF 331 into law, which will streamline energy efficiency reporting for electric co-op staff, allowing them more time to serve member-consumers. The bill passed unanimously in the Iowa House and Senate.

The co-op representatives then convened for a briefing where they received updates on state and federal legislative issues. In the afternoon, co-op representatives met with their local elected officials during a dessert social held at the Capitol rotunda. The advocates educated legislators on several issues important to Iowa's electric cooperatives, including the safety of line personnel as they work on the side of roadways in accordance with the state's "Move Over or Slow Down" law, and expanding property tax exemptions for geothermal heating and cooling systems. Co-op advocates also expressed their thanks for legislator support of SF 331.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity is commonplace so it can be easy to overlook possible electrical hazards. May is Electrical Safety Month and a good time to put the most important safety tool you have—your brain—to work.

Knowing what to be on the lookout for and knowing the safe steps to take can make all the difference in preventing accidents. Safe Electricity offers the following home safety tips to stay safe and help others stay safe:

- Always read and understand the operator's manual before using an appliance or tool.
- Make sure recognized safety laboratories, like UL, ETL, or CSA have certified your electrical appliance, tools, and cords.
- Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.
- Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.
- Only use properly rated extension cords.
- For the safety of children in your home, install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.
- If your outlets are warm to the touch, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker, and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCIs) in areas that may be wet or damp.
- Never use power tools outdoors if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Efficiency tips for outdoor shops and barns

There are many benefits to having an energy-efficient outdoor shop or barn. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe, save money on your water bill, keep your animals happier and healthier, and save you from costly structural repairs.

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property?

Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. Consider drainage, sun exposure, and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. This includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products, protect and conserve water, enhance indoor environmental quality, and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- If you are hiring a contractor to help build your structure, make sure you look for companies who specialize in “green” buildings and energy-efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations, or general site disruption.

Follow these tips to make energy-efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. Trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2-degree Fahrenheit temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, keeping harmful bacteria from building and insects at bay.



Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, there are many ways you can make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient.

Contact your Touchstone Energy cooperative to learn more about energy efficiency.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Board passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its memberships: If a member-consumer has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call your local electric cooperative at the following address or phone number:

Butler County REC

521 N. Main Street, PO Box 98
Allison, IA 50602-0098
(319) 267-2726
www.butlerrec.coop

Franklin REC

1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437
Hampton, IA 50441-0437
(641) 456-2557
www.franklinrec.coop

Grundy County REC

303 N. Park Ave., PO Box 39
Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039
(319) 824-5251
www.grundycountyrecia.com

Prairie Energy Cooperative

2099 Highway 3 West, PO Box 353
Clarion, IA 50525-0353
(515) 532-2805
www.prairieenergy.coop

If your complaint is related to your cooperative's service rather than its rates, and your cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov

**Co-op offices are closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 29.
Phones are answered 24/7.**

SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the following seniors for winning scholarships available from Franklin REC.

Basin Electric Power Scholarships

One \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Kayla Anderson, daughter of Bret and Michele Anderson of Alden. A \$250 runner-up scholarship went to Alyssa Eberling, daughter of Corey and Amy Eberling of Sheffield.

To apply for the Basin Electric Power Scholarship, applicants must be dependents of Franklin REC members. Scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, work experience, and school and community activities.



Kayla Anderson



Alyssa Eberling



Caleb Bartling



Ryan Kloetzer



Jacob Foster

Foster to represent Franklin REC on Youth Tour

Jacob Foster, son of Chad and Heather Foster of Hampton, was recently selected to represent Franklin REC during the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 9-15.

To qualify for the tour, students must be high school sophomores or juniors living in the Hampton-Dumont, CAL, West Fork, or AGWSR school districts or their parents must be members of Franklin REC. The selection process includes a test and interview.

Foster is a junior at Hampton-Dumont High school where he is active in the fine arts. He participates in jazz; show choir; and various singing and drama groups. His favorite subjects include computer science, biology, and engineering.

Congratulations to Foster on his achievements and winning this opportunity to tour Washington, D.C. Students on the tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history, and U.S. government. They also visit with their representatives in the House and the Senate.



Ribbon cutting held for community solar project

The Greater Franklin County Chamber and Economic Development Association helped Franklin REC board members and employees turn the power on for the new community solar array. The event was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 28.

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