

● AUGUST 2025

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**2025 Shine the Light
nominees announced**

**Students attend Youth Tour
in the nation's capital**

Garden-fresh recipes

Reeve REA Power Plant celebrated as a national historic landmark ▶ See Page 4

REEVE REA POWER GENERATING PLANT CELEBRATED AS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

On July 9, local leaders, community members and electric cooperative representatives gathered near the Hampton Substation to celebrate a proud moment in Iowa history – the official recognition of the Reeve REA Power Generating Plant as a National Historic Landmark. The event was a celebration of local history, community collaboration and the enduring legacy of rural electrification.

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the June meeting, Franklin REC directors approved the following:

- Estate patronage retirements
- Rural Electric Supply Cooperative director

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig attended the ceremony and spoke about the plant's historic role in rural electrification and agricultural progress. Built from 1937–1938, the plant was the first of its kind west of the Mississippi to be financed by the Rural Electrification Administration. It provided electricity to rural homes and farms at a time when much of rural Iowa was still without power.

The Franklin County Historical Society led the effort to secure the plant's national recognition. Members spent years researching the site's significance, documenting its history, and completing the grant applications and paperwork required for National Historic Landmark status.

Their commitment to preserving this piece of cooperative history made the designation possible.

Now operating as a museum, the plant features one original diesel engine, control panels and equipment. It offers a rare glimpse into the early days of rural power generation and the positive impact it had on rural Iowa. The Reeve Plant is now the 29th site in Iowa to receive National Historic Landmark status, joining notable locations such as the Surf Ballroom, Iowa City's Old Capitol and the Herbert Hoover Birthplace.

To schedule a visit to the Reeve REA Power Generating Plant Museum, call the Franklin County Historical Society at 641-456-5777.



Office

1560 Highway 65 • P.O. Box 437
Hampton, IA 50441

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Telephone Number

641-456-2557
Calls answered 24/7

Secure Pay-by-Phone Number

1-855-940-3953

Website

www.franklinrec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Pictured from left: Jim Davies, Franklin County Historical Society; Darwin Meyer, REA historian; Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig; Garrett Thompson, Franklin REC general manager/CEO; and Rick Whalen, Franklin County Historical Society.

GET TO KNOW US

In this edition of our “Get to Know Us” series, we’re highlighting three dedicated members of the Franklin REC team: Scott Hagenson, Emily Rush and Dale Schaefer.

They share their personal experiences at the cooperative, the accomplishments they’re most proud of and how they believe Franklin REC has impacted the community. Additionally, each provides their perspectives on the cooperative’s growth and offers advice for those just starting their careers.

Keep reading to learn more about Scott, Emily and Dale and the important work they do at Franklin REC!

SCOTT HAGENSON Line Superintendent



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC? The friends I have made, both coworkers and members.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC’s impact on the community? Franklin REC tries to help and give back to all the communities in our service territory when asked.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? That we are still a small co-op that provides great service at a very competitive price.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in two words, what would they be? Service, Community

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Enjoy the friendships you will make with the membership and your fellow employees.

Q: Any additional comments? Being part of a small co-op is a privilege and something that few people are able to still enjoy!

EMILY RUSH Accountant



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC? Working for the members and knowing that what we do

makes a difference to someone.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC’s impact on the community? We try to make our community matter the most by operating with servant leadership and providing reliable electricity to our members.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? The Franklin REC team goes above and beyond to make sure our members have what they need and can be proud to be a part of something that matters.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Members matter most.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Find a career that makes you proud of what you do so you can go into work every day knowing what you do matters.

DALE SCHAEFER Board Director



Q: What’s your favorite part of being involved with Franklin REC? Trying to grow the cooperative’s kilowatt sales to reduce the

cost of electricity to the members.

Q: How has Franklin REC changed since you started? Franklin REC has a new office and shop, as well as new equipment and technology. Internally, we have a great safety program and are in strong financial shape. We have successful economic development projects and have assisted in growth in our service territory.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? Franklin REC is here to work with the communities we serve.

Q: What’s a project or initiative at Franklin REC you’re especially proud of? The work to build new and improved power lines to increase our reliable service to our co-op members.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in a few words, what would they be? Trust in the cooperative.

FRANKLIN REC OFFICE CLOSURE — LABOR DAY

Franklin REC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 2, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

As always, our phones are answered 24/7 at 641-456-2557 if you need any assistance.

FRANKLIN REC EARNS A 2025 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AWARD

Franklin REC is honored to have earned a 2025 Customer Satisfaction Award* from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results.



Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations and how well we measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Franklin REC's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported in the 2025 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This award is a testament to Franklin REC's ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2025 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that Franklin REC's hard work has been noticed by its members. Franklin REC is grateful for its members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement.

**Award criteria are determined by the ACSI and are based on customers rating their satisfaction in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.*

LOCAL TEEN ATTENDS NATIONAL TOUR PROGRAM

Nicholas Quasdorf of Hampton recently participated in the national rural electric cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by Franklin REC. He traveled to Washington, D.C., in mid-June with 34 other student leaders from Iowa.

Every summer, this weeklong leadership development program provides high school students opportunities to learn about government, the electric cooperative business model and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students meet their elected officials, tour historic sites and run their very own snack cooperative.

The annual Youth Tour has been a joint effort of locally owned electric cooperatives, including Franklin REC, statewide trade associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for over 65 years.

Nicholas said he had the experience of a lifetime.

“ The Youth Tour was an experience I will not forget. From the monuments and museums, I came to a better understanding of the history that built our nation. Meeting with people who are involved in representing us was impactful, and I appreciated them taking the time to teach us what happens to make our government work. I can't thank Franklin REC enough for sponsoring this experience. ”

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for the rural electric Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world Wheelchair Basketball champion. Mike shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students on Youth Tour for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

For more information on how you can participate in Franklin REC's 2026 Youth Tour program, visit www.franklinrec.coop/youth-tour or www.IowaYouthTour.com. You can also search for "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook or Instagram to see the group's recent adventures from 2025.



WHY ARE THERE TWO TRUCKS AT A FRANKLIN REC WORK SITE?

Have you ever driven past a Franklin REC crew and wondered why two utility trucks are on-site? Typically, Franklin REC has a bucket truck and a digger truck at a job site. Each has a specific role that helps our lineworkers safely and efficiently get the job done. Both trucks are essential tools in building and maintaining the electric system that delivers power to your home or business.

Bucket truck: Getting the job done at new heights

Our bucket trucks are equipped with hydraulic booms and a variety of bucket sizes, from single-person to two-man configurations, allowing linemen to safely access the tops of utility poles with their tools and equipment in tow. Many of these trucks also feature a mechanical arm known as a “jib,” complete with a winch, which enables linemen to lift and install heavy equipment – such as transformers – directly from the bucket.

This modern equipment has replaced the need to manually climb poles and haul materials by hand, making the job not only more efficient but also significantly safer and easier physically.

A bucket truck helps crews:

- Build and string new power lines
- Replace overhead equipment such as transformers or insulators
- Perform routine maintenance
- Restore power after outages
- Trim vegetation near power lines

Digger truck: The power behind the pole

The primary role of the digger truck is to drill precise holes for utility poles using a 5-foot-long, 18-inch-wide auger. But digging is just the beginning. This versatile truck is also equipped with a hydraulic grapple that lifts and sets the pole directly into place. When it's time for replacement, the digger truck makes the process just as efficient by removing the old pole and loading it onto a trailer for transport.

The digger truck plays a key role in:

- New construction
- Pole replacements
- Storm damage repairs



Tools that keep our members powered

Having a fleet of specialized equipment like bucket and digger trucks means our crews can work safer, faster and more effectively. It also means fewer physical strains, helping our employees stay healthy and on the job for the long haul.

Now the next time you see our crews in the field, you'll know exactly why both trucks are there. And if you're ever curious, feel free to stop (safely!) and ask. Our team is always happy to share more about the tools and teamwork it takes to keep the power flowing.

Special thanks to Franklin REC Lineman Austin Neff for contributing to this article.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING


The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

August 2025

Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop

SAFETY

IS THE BACKBONE OF RELIABILITY



Safety is **#1** at your **Touchstone Energy® cooperative.** This commitment to provide electrical safety has always been our priority so we can deliver reliable energy and peace of mind. That's why safety runs through everything we do.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®