

# THE CONNECTION

## Thank you for attending Consumers Energy's Annual Business Meeting & Member Appreciation Breakfast!

*Consumers Energy... your source for power and information*

*Look for highlights of the event  
in the October newsletter.*

### WIN

ONE OF TWO MONTHLY \$5 BILL CREDITS

#### THIS MONTH'S CONTEST:

*As harvest time approaches, farm employees need to look up and live - meaning they always need to take special care when operating farm machinery around electric lines.*

*How many electrical farm safety icons can you find in this edition of *The Connection*?*



Winners for the month of July:

**Willard Lehman, Slater  
Delbert & Helen Atcher, Marshalltown**

#### Here's how to enter:

1. Answer the question or challenge posed each month.
2. Send answers to Consumers Energy with:
  - . Name
  - . Service address
  - . Account number
  - . Phone number
  - . Email address

Email to: [kglenney@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:kglenney@consumersenergy.coop)

Subject line: Contest

Mail to: Consumers Energy  
2074 242nd Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

3. Winners' names will be drawn at random and published in upcoming issues of *The Connection*.

#### September 2018

*- Your Source for  
Power and Information*

#### Dates To Remember:

- Sept. 3 Bills Due
- Sept. 3 Office Closed -  
Labor Day Holiday
- Sept. 4 Automatic Payments  
Deducted
- Sept. 11 Mail Bills
- Sept. 25 Automatic Payments  
Deducted
- Oct. 1 Read Meters
- Oct. 1 New Office Hours Begin  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 3 Bills Due
- Oct. 3 Automatic Payments  
Deducted

## PRESIDENT'S & MANAGER'S REPORT

It is our privilege on behalf of Consumers Energy's directors, management, and employees to report on some of the activities and financial position of the cooperative for the year 2017 and to provide information for 2018 to date.



**Bill Hobson**  
President

The cooperative's Board of Directors and management continue to focus on Consumers Energy's core electric distribution business. A cost-conscious approach is used in managing the cooperative. This has contributed to positive financial performance and margins that are reflected in Consumers Energy's 2018 year-to-date financial statements.



**Jim Kidd**  
General Manager

Consumers Energy is a cooperative, and its members are the owners of this company. The amount a member pays for electricity and services provided by the cooperative that is not needed to operate Consumers Energy is eventually paid back to members as patronage capital credits. For the 2017 calendar year the board chose to pay back patronage capital credits in the amount of \$750,000.

The cooperative has 24 full-time employees. We are most grateful to them for the effort and dedication they put forth to provide the membership with reliable electricity and energy advice. While we focus on the needs of our members, we also address the needs of our employees so the work in the office and out in the field can be performed safely and efficiently.

There are nine members serving on the cooperative's Board of Directors. The board annually holds 12 regular meetings and occasional special meetings. The directors also attend training seminars and meetings of affiliated state, regional, and national organizations and serve as the cooperative's delegates. Their participation in these meetings help the cooperative have a well-informed Board of Directors.

The financial report listed in this annual report provides the facts of the financial position of Consumers Energy as of December 31, 2017. The 2017 audit of the cooperative's financial statements was successfully completed by our auditor, Eide Bailly, LLP, in March of this year. Please contact the cooperative office with any questions you might have in regard to this report.

We wish to extend our thanks to each member for the support and cooperation provided to Consumers Energy this past year.

## CONSUMERS ENERGY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

August 25, 2018 10:00 a.m.  
2074 242nd Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Introductions

Welcome

Reading of Notice of Meeting

Reading of Minutes of Last Year's Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Report of Nominating Committee

Call for Ballots

President's Report

Manager's Report

Youth Tour Representative

Report of Election

Unfinished Business / Questions

New Business

Adjournment

Drawing for Prizes



*Consumers Energy Board of Directors*

## Consumers Energy - Financial Report

### Balance Sheet December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & Temporary Investments	\$3,260,990	\$1,796,606
Investments in Associated Organizations	7,954,056	7,175,627
Current Assets	3,523,986	3,236,204
Other Assets	1,144,085	1,763,741
Total Utility Plant	\$46,763,097	\$44,668,992
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>19,346,714</u>	<u>18,297,963</u>
Net Utility Plant	<u>27,416,383</u>	<u>26,371,029</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>43,299,500</u></b>	<b><u>40,343,207</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	4,572,123	2,597,858
Long-Term Debt	18,467,812	19,231,181
Other Liabilities & Credits	50,389	178,406
Operating Margins Prior Years	14,462,716	13,470,545
Patronage Capital	3,089,832	2,109,715
Margins	2,656,628	2,755,502
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b><u>43,299,500</u></b>	<b><u>40,343,207</u></b>



### Statement of Operations For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
Operating Revenues	\$17,115,122	\$15,744,105
Operating Expenses		
Cost of Purchased Energy	\$8,963,929	\$7,836,100
Cost of Operations & Maintenance	3,666,730	3,339,174
Depreciation	1,496,381	1,418,235
Taxes	277,661	277,810
Interest Expense	<u>1,076,264</u>	<u>1,148,452</u>
Total Expense	<u>15,480,965</u>	<u>14,019,771</u>
Margins from Operations	1,634,157	1,724,334
Patronage Capital Received From		
Associated Organizations	957,970	1,022,157
Nonoperating Margins	<u>64,501</u>	<u>9,011</u>
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b><u>2,656,628</u></b>	<b><u>2,755,502</u></b>



# Are You **READY!**

## Electricity lights up our world!

Think of all the ways we rely on electricity: keeping food fresh, cooking meals, and getting information through the internet or TV. It keeps us warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and connected with each other year round. Oftentimes, we use electricity to play and have fun! Are you and your family ready if disaster strikes and your home is without power?



*How would we see at night without power?*

Help your family build an emergency kit! Collect these items and keep them together in a safe place that you can find easily. Make sure you have enough supplies to last for at least **three days**.

## Emergency Supplies List

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- Can opener
- First aid kit
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- Change of clothes to last 3 days, including sturdy shoes; consider the weather where you live
- Matches in a waterproof container (let a grown up handle these)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Water – at least a gallon per person, per day
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio with extra batteries
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps
- Pet supplies
- Baby supplies
- Books, games or puzzles
- A favorite stuffed animal or blanket

**Remember, traffic lights will not work!**



**Go on a quest with your family!  
Create a scavenger hunt!  
Make planning fun!**



<http://www.ready.gov/kids>

# EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2018, CONSUMERS ENERGY'S OFFICE HOURS WILL BE 7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY

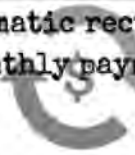
Members can still report outages and make payments 24/7.  
Payment options are listed below.

OUTAGES: 800-696-6552 OR 641-752-1593

PAYMENTS: 844-201-7196

## WAYS TO PAY YOUR CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL

Automatic recurring  
monthly payments



By dropbox



By mail



In person

By phone 24/7  
844-201-7196



Online  
[www.consumersenergy.coop](http://www.consumersenergy.coop)

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at  
800-696-6552 or [info@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:info@consumersenergy.coop).

CONSUMERS  
ENERGY

ALL PAYMENT OPTIONS OFFERED ARE  
TO MEMBERS!





## Did you buy a new appliance or equipment this summer?

If you purchased any new appliances or equipment this summer, don't forget to file your incentive forms. Below are important reminders before filing these forms with the Consumers Energy. All requirements must be met in order to receive the incentives offered.

- All incentive forms and documents are due within 6 months of purchase date.
- Fill the forms out completely, and sign in all places indicated.
- Attach copies of receipts for purchases.
- In order to ensure prompt payment of the incentives, it is recommended to turn paperwork in as soon as possible in case of delays or missing information.

For more information on Consumers Energy's Incentive Program, visit [www.consumersenergy.coop](http://www.consumersenergy.coop) and click on the Incentives button on the home page, or call the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552.

Sign up for Automatic Bill Pay from your computer or mobile device via SmartHub!

CLICK BILL & PAY.

CLICK AUTO PAY PROGRAM.

Follow the prompts to set up your automatic payments.

**For more information, contact the Member Services Department.**

**800-696-6552**



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Cryptogram

Can you figure out what the message says?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		3										8	11				10	22				15			

          C                          S C                          C N            
 20 4 3 14      9 2      22 3 12 2 2 19      3 4 11      20 17

          N                          M                          W            
 4      13 21 11      9 24 8 17      7 2 21      15 24 19 19

          M                          M N                                    
 8 17 17 9      8 4 11 7      2 19 16



          R                          N S                          N                          W            
 13 10 24 17 11 16 22      4 11 16      7 2 21      15 24 19 19



          M                          N W                          R                          N S            
 8 4 14 17      11 17 15      13 10 24 17 11 16 22





**Office Hours**  
7:30 am — 4:30 pm  
Monday through Friday

## Contact Us

2074 242nd Street • Marshalltown, Iowa 50158  
Phone: 641-752-1593 • Toll-Free: 800-696-6552   
Fax: 641-752-5738 • E-mail: [info@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:info@consumersenergy.coop)  
**www.consumersenergy.coop**

### Directors:

Bill Hobson, President  
Mark Wampler, Vice President  
Pat VonAhnen, Secretary-Treasurer  
Allan Armbrecht, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
Terry Benskin  
Jeff Edler  
Arden Greiner  
Bob Meimann  
John Ripley

If you have an idea for a topic for The Connection, please contact Kippen Glenney at 800-696-6552 or [kglenney@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:kglenney@consumersenergy.coop).



**Secure Payments System**



# 844-201-7196

Make payment on your Consumers Energy account at your convenience!

Simply call the number - then you are able to store payment information for future payments. You will need your account number or the current phone number on your account.

This service is **FREE** and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!

If you have questions, please contact the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or [info@consumersenergy.coop](mailto:info@consumersenergy.coop).

## Lighting Facts

Per Bulb

**Brightness** 655 lumens

**Estimated Yearly Energy Cost** \$1.08

Based on 3 hrs/day  
11c/kWh Cost depends on rates and use



**Life** 22.8 years

Based on 3 hrs/day

### Light Appearance



**Energy Used** 9 watts

## Read the Label!

Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which can help you buy the most energy-efficient bulb for your lighting needs.

The label includes information on brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance and energy used (wattage).

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*