



Iowa Institute for
Cooperatives

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CO-OPVIEWS

News and information for the benefit of Iowa cooperatives.

IIC Board of Directors

Built to Represent Iowa's Cooperative Community

Strong cooperatives start with strong leadership. That is why the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Board of Directors is intentionally structured to reflect the people, places, and industries that make up Iowa's cooperative community.

The IIC Board includes 14 directors who represent local and regional cooperatives across Iowa, ensuring decisions reflect today's community needs and tomorrow's priorities.

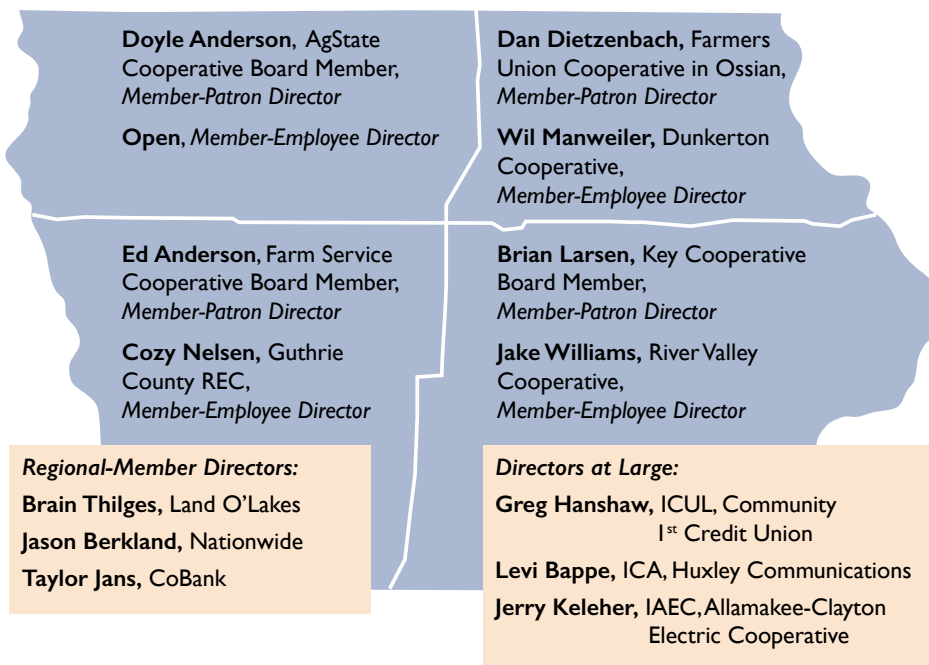
DISTRICT REPRESENTATION KEEPS IT LOCAL

Eight board seats are dedicated to geographic districts so every corner of Iowa has a voice. The state is divided into four districts: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast, separated by U.S. Highway 20 and Interstate 80.

Each district elects two directors:

- One member-patron director who serves on a local cooperative board
- One cooperative CEO or senior manager

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS



This structure keeps the board closely connected to local cooperatives and the members they serve. It ensures real-world challenges and opportunities from across Iowa are part of every conversation.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVES BRING A BROADER VIEW

Three seats are held by major regional cooperatives that operate in Iowa. These seats belong to the cooperatives themselves, with each organization appointing an employee to serve on the board.

Regional cooperative directors bring valuable insight from working across multiple communities and, in many cases, multiple states. Their perspective helps connect local priorities with statewide and regional strategies.

EVERY SECTOR HAS A VOICE

Three additional seats represent key cooperative sectors in Iowa:

- Credit unions, appointed by the Iowa Credit Union League
- Rural electric cooperatives, appointed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Telecommunications cooperatives, appointed by the Iowa Communications Alliance

These directors ensure that financial services, energy, and connectivity all have a seat at the table as IIC shapes policy, education, and advocacy efforts.

WHY THIS APPROACH MATTERS

This balanced board structure means local cooperatives have a strong voice, regional cooperatives stay connected to community needs, and all cooperative sectors are represented in decision-making.

Together, the IIC Board of Directors guides the Institute's work to educate, advocate for, and strengthen Iowa cooperatives so they can continue serving members and communities across the state.

75th Annual Meeting Highlights Cooperative Leadership & Legacy

2025 Annual Meeting

The Iowa Institute for Cooperatives held its 75th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at a new location, the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. The day brought together cooperative leaders from across Iowa to conduct business, connect with peers, and recognize individuals whose leadership has shaped the cooperative system for decades.

A highlight of the Annual Business Meeting was the induction of two long-time cooperative leaders into the IIC Hall of Fame: Roger Arthur of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative and Dyle Erickson of NEW Cooperative.



ROGER ARTHUR was honored for more than 30 years of dedicated service to Iowa's electric cooperative community. Arthur joined the Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in 1992 and went on to serve 33 years, including 25 years as board president. During his tenure, he helped guide the cooperative through significant milestones, including construction of a new

headquarters, expansion into fiber and internet services, and development of community solar projects.

Arthur's leadership extended beyond his local cooperative. He served as president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and later as president of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, representing Iowa cooperatives at the national level. A lifelong farmer and community leader, Arthur is widely respected for his steady leadership, integrity, and commitment to putting members first.



DYLE ERICKSON was recognized for a career spanning more than three decades of service to agricultural cooperatives in Iowa. Erickson served 37 years on the board of the Farmers Cooperative Association of Humboldt, including 23 years as board president. His leadership guided the cooperative through mergers, facility improvements, and leadership transitions, with a focus on long-term stability and member success.

Following the merger that formed NEW Cooperative, Erickson continued his service as a board representative, where his practical thinking and collaborative approach supported growth while maintaining a strong member-focused mission. Known for mentoring future leaders and planning with the next generation in mind, Erickson's impact extends well beyond boardrooms and balance sheets. His career reflects thoughtful decision-making, teamwork, and a deep commitment to Iowa agriculture and rural communities.

In addition to the Hall of Fame recognitions, attendees heard from keynote speaker Jeff Lanza, a retired FBI Special Agent, who shared real-world lessons on integrity, accountability, and ethical decision-making. Educational breakout sessions throughout the afternoon addressed timely topics including CRISPR and crop yields, renewable fuels policy, and the economic outlook.

Looking ahead, the 76th IIC Annual Meeting will be held August 26-27, 2026, returning to the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. We've expanded the annual meeting to two full days, giving members more time to network and build meaningful connections. [Stay tuned to our webpage for more details.](#)



Roger Arthur accepts his Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Hall of Fame award with his wife, Cheryl, and presenter Hollee McCormick, VP & General Manager of ACEC.



Hall of Fame inductee Dyle Erickson is recognized alongside his wife, Barb, and presenter Brian Wagner, Board President NEW Cooperative.

From the Hill

A Strong Cooperative Voice Heading Into the 2026 Session

The 2026 legislative session is quickly approaching. When lawmakers return on January 12th, the Iowa Capitol will once again be a hub of activity as organizations work to address ongoing challenges and introduce new ideas to strengthen their industries. The Iowa Institute for Cooperatives will continue to be a strong voice for Iowa's cooperatives.

Several unresolved issues from previous sessions are expected to resurface, including carbon capture pipelines, tax reform, and funding for key state programs.

Whatever comes our way, IIC is prepared. Our policy resolution book, developed by the IIC Legislative Committee and approved by our members, provides clear direction on the issues we advocate for and ensures we remain focused on priorities that deliver meaningful benefits to Iowa cooperatives.

Be on the lookout for our weekly Legislative Update newsletter once the session begins. Each issue will provide a general overview of what happened at the Capitol that week along with an up-to-date tracker of the issues IIC is actively engaged in on behalf of our members. If you have questions about specific issues or want to ensure you're on the Legislative Update subscription list, please reach out to Megan Carlson at mcarlson@iowainstitute.coop.

Join Us for the 2026 Policy & Advocacy Summit

Mark your calendar for January 26–27, 2026, when the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives hosts its Policy & Advocacy Summit at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines. This two-day event is all about helping you make your voice heard, meeting legislators, and staying informed on the issues that matter most to Iowa's cooperatives.

If you're a General Manager, Board Member, grassroots advocate, or simply interested in cooperative policy, this is the place to be. **Register by January 12.**

On Day 1, we'll dive into timely topics like property taxes and crop protection, hear from lobbyists and legislators, and work together to craft messages that resonate with lawmakers. We'll wrap up the day with a networking dinner with fellow cooperative members.

Day 2 takes us to the Iowa State Capitol for a legislative breakfast to meet with legislators and a guided tour of Iowa's Capitol Building. It's a hands-on opportunity to see the process up close and make sure our cooperative voices are heard.

If you have any questions, or would like to register please contact Megan Carlson at mcarlson@iowainstitute.coop.

Upcoming Programs at a Glance - Register Today

Policy & Advocacy Summit | Jan 26-27

Connect with legislators, discuss key cooperative issues, and strengthen your advocacy skills at this two-day event, featuring expert sessions, networking, and a Capitol tour.

Click to register.

NextGen 2026-2027

This program develops future cooperative leaders through hands-on workshops and collaborative projects, focusing on strategic thinking, communication, and problem-solving. It emphasizes ethical leadership, innovation, and teamwork to strengthen both participants and their cooperatives.

Click for more information.

Copilot with Excel Workshop | Feb 5

Virtual Workshop

We're offering a full-day online workshop on using Copilot to work smarter in Excel, with hands-on training in data analysis, automation, and reporting. Led by Educate360 experts. No Copilot subscription required.

Click to register.



Advanced Director Program | Feb 26-27

Digital Ag Innovation Center, Ames, IA

The Advanced Directors Program (ADP) is a two-day workshop for directors who have completed DCP and want to strengthen board leadership and management skills.

Click to register.

PROGRAM MAKERS

TrueNorth is a Proud Partner in Cooperative Excellence

As an Iowa-based, truly privately held, locally owned firm, our commitment to cooperatives is unmatched. Nimble, client-focused and truly invested in your success, TrueNorth offers industry expertise and comprehensive options for members of the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives.

SPECIALIZED PROTECTION & SUPPORT FOR:

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Investing in Iowa's Cooperatives

Program Makers represent organizations that have made a deeper commitment to Iowa's cooperative community. Through this membership level, Program Makers receive elevated recognition and engagement opportunities throughout the year while directly supporting IIC's mission

and programming. Their investment helps strengthen cooperative education, leadership, and collaboration across the state, and their commitment helps keep educational programming costs low. Learn how to become a Program Maker, call us today at 515.292.2667.

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