


Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



A VERY BUSY SUMMER

By Jay A. Porter, PE,
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to summer storm season! Mother Nature has certainly brewed up some unusual weather these past few months. On June 14, Adams-Columbia's service area was in the path of a widespread storm that packed excessive winds, rain, and hail the likes of which I've never seen before.

Particularly hard hit was the Wild Rose area in Waushara County. Just north of Wilson Lake I saw a section of a pine forest about 50 feet wide that was sheared off around 15 feet above the ground. Thank goodness, no person or anyone's home or place of business was located near that area. I also recall a cottonwood tree over three feet in diameter that was snapped off at the base and laid perfectly across the road. Downed trees severely hampered our power restoration efforts. It took the work of a lot of professionals and good Samaritans to reopen the roads. Our crews worked long hours to replace more than 30 broken poles and to put our wires back in the air.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all our great members for their patience and assistance in this restoration effort. Most important, the work was completed without injury to our employees or members. Safety has always been and remains our top priority. We have an accompanying article with photos on the next two pages. You can see more storm photos on our website and Facebook page.

We had a great turnout for our Member Appreciation event at Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells. Our member services group and volunteer employees and directors did an outstanding job organizing this first-ever event. My family and I took advantage of a guided tour; hands down the highlight was being able to feed carrots to an 18-foot-tall giraffe! The animal nursery was a close second. We distributed over 1,700 tickets to members and their families through the week. We hope to see you all again next year, with the wish that more members take advantage our annual member appreciation events.

July marks my first anniversary here at Adams-

Columbia. Working and getting to know our board members and employees has been an amazing experience. Their commitment to serving our member-owners is truly a strength here at ACEC. While I had many challenges adjusting to the work processes, software systems, and those unique attributes every cooperative has developed over its history, I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

I can only imagine what the employees and board members have had to endure in adjusting to my leadership style, too. I had to say good-bye to a great friend and

mentor when Chuck Spargo retired in April, but fortunately he lives three blocks away and has offered (which is very Chuck like) to provide continued support.

Beyond the cooperative, I've met many wonderful members, utility peers,

our Statewide Association employees, and have been able to renew old working relationships with the employees at WE Energies, Alliant Energy, and the American Transmission Company. As they say, it's good to be back home.

Although the proposed member advisory resolution on board proceedings failed to pass, the board of directors discussed the topic at their May meeting. Their recommendation is to make board meeting minutes available for review on our cooperative website at www.acecwi.com. As space permits, we will also publish the board meeting minutes in our member newsletters.

Starting this fall, I will be available one day per month at our Pardeeville and Wautoma service centers. You can find the schedule on page 16C. I am regularly available at our Friendship headquarters and the other offices by appointment. Just give me a call.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all our great members for their patience and assistance.



JUNE STORM

results in widespread,
extended power outages

On the late afternoon of Wednesday, June 14, a powerful and fast-moving storm left a wide path of damage across central Wisconsin, including a large part of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's service area. Initially the storm left approximately 6,700 cooperative members without power. Hardest hit by the storm was Waushara County, especially in the heavily wooded lakes area near Wild Rose. More than 30 poles were destroyed.

Reports of downed trees and extensive property damage were common, especially in Waushara County. With many local roads impassable, ACEC line crews began immediately to assess the extent of the storm damage and begin the long task to restore power. By dawn of the next day, there were still some 1,900 ACEC members without power. Steady progress would be made, but the painstakingly slow job of restoring power would take four days and more than (x,xxx) labor hours to complete.

For reasons of safety and efficiency, restoration work was mostly limited to daylight hours. Taking advantage of some of the longest daylight hours of the year, crews started early and worked until dark each day. As other community neighborhoods were put back in power, all efforts quickly focused on the Wild Rose area. Contracted crews helped by clearing downed trees and debris from rights-of-way ahead of line crews. Men from other cooperatives were paired with ACEC staff. Coordination



was critical to ensure safety and efficiency.

It will take some time for us to fully analyze all the outage details. Initial estimates put the cost of this storm at approximately (\$xxx,xxx). At the time of this report, federal officials had not yet determined if the storm would qualify for federal reimbursement. If the request is denied, ACEC will bear the full cost of the storm damage.

To those members affected by the June 14 storm, everyone at Adams-Columbia wants to thank you for your patience during a very difficult time. Even though it was beyond our control, we understand and share your hardship. An archive of storm photos is available by going to our website at www.acecwi.com and on our Facebook page.



Maybe some sort of cutline here, although I think these pictures are probably pretty self-explanatory so if you want to drop the cutlines I'll just make the photos on this page a little bigger.



R.O.P.E.

R.O.P.E. stands for Restoration of Power in Emergency. It is a longstanding agreement among electric cooperatives in Wisconsin and neighboring states to assist each other with power restoration work during emergencies, especially after storms and other natural disasters.

Several times through the years Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative has been called upon to provide assistance to other cooperatives. In early June, ACEC was asked to help with storm recovery work at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. Later in the same month, it was our turn to ask for the help of others. Some cooperatives were busy cleaning up their own storm damage, but with a few telephone calls help was on its way.

Vernon Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Westby, sent us two journeyman line technicians and a truck. Our neighbor to the west, Oakdale Electric Cooperative, responded with two trucks and four line technicians. We're grateful for their assistance provided through the R.O.P.E. program. There's no better example of the Sixth Cooperative Principle: Cooperation Among Cooperatives.





YOU MADE IT A GREAT DAY!

Thank
you



THANK YOU FOR COMING!

- ✓ Free popcorn
- ✓ Free gift to the first 250 members
- ✓ Pictures with Jack, the baby Kangaroo
- ✓ Have an awesome time at Timbavati

MEMBER APPRECIATION 2017

at Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells

Every year we have a member appreciation event where our members can enjoy a day of fun together. This year we had our event at Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells. Our members were able to register for free tickets to the park. We know that everyone has a busy summer, so we extended our event from one day, to an entire week. For information on all of our events, be sure to read your Connections Newsletter, Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News Magazine, or visit acecwi.com.



Sarah Naparalia Thank YOU for the free tickets. Timbavati is a beautiful park with lots of animals for kids to interact with.

Like · Reply · 1 · June 22 at 5:15pm



Veronica Elgan We had a great day! Thank you so much!!

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · June 19 at 8:49am



Jessica Amell We had an awesome trip we went Sunday THANK YOU

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · June 22 at 12:38am



Cheryl Griffith Thank you for this, we had a great time!

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · June 17 at 9:02pm



NEWS

October is Co-op Month!

This year we will be having a Shred-It event for Co-op month. Bring your sensitive documents to be shredded on site between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Friendship - Friday, October 6th

Pardeeville - Friday, October 13th

Wautoma - Friday, October 20th

Jay's Discussion Days

Now is the chance to sit down and have a discussion with our CEO, Jay Porter. Bring your questions and concerns, or simply stop in to say hi.

Although these offices are generally closed to the public, on Jay's Discussions Days, the doors will be open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm for visits.

	Pardeeville	Wautoma
September	12th	18th
October	19th	20th
November	6th	9th
December	12th	15th



NEW LOOK

Our website will have a new look.

We are happy to announce that we have a new website in the works. Our redesign will have a fresh look with the goal of making your user experience as easy as possible.



WIN PRIZES ON FACEBOOK

We are starting new, fun contests for give aways! Like us on Facebook and watch for the posts.

www.facebook.com/ACECWI/



ADAMS COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative employees, family members and friends were deeply involved in the 2017 Adams County Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. In addition to being a terrific team, some served as members of the event's organizing com-

mittee. ACEC was a corporate sponsor of the event.

Their outreach for support involved even more ACEC folks, and others from the community. Each team member is asked to raise at least \$100 from donations. Fundraisers supplemented the ACEC team's total donation. The creativity of the group resulted in a variety of fun activities. Funds can be contributed through the month of August; by July

1, the team had already raised nearly \$4,500 in donations.

Team ACEC consisted of: Wendy Peterson, Danielle Amundson, Rick Roenneburg, Liz Hendricksen, Christa Wollin, Annie Hebior, Haley Melby, Mindy Kerska, Ashley Miller, Jay Porter, Jacqueline Wilson, and Jane Kirslenlohr. They want to thank everyone who joined them and contributed in any way to support the 2017 Relay for Life event.



OPERATION ROUND-UP® MAKES DONATION

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's (ACEC) Operation Round-Up® program recently donated to Clothes for Kids, Inc. of Beaver Dam. The donation will be used to support the organization's Back-to-School program for children in need. In the past year, over 1,100 children were given supplies, backpacks and new shoes from this program.

The Clothes for Kids organization has been in existence for over 25 years. Their core program is directed at providing free-of-charge, high-quality, clean clothing to children in need. In addition, services are being continually added to meet the needs of citizens from Dodge and Columbia Counties, and the surrounding area.

Adams-Columbia's Operation Round-Up program is funded entirely by cooperative members who agree to "round up" their electric bill to the next highest dollar amount. These small individual donations add up to make a real difference. The program has 7,000 participating members who, on average, contribute about \$6 per year. Operation Round-Up has contributed nearly \$600,000 to area individuals and organizations.

Individuals and community service organizations in ACEC's service territory are encouraged to apply for donations from the Operation Round-Up program. Application forms are available on the cooperative's website at www.acecwi.com. ACEC members not already enrolled in Operation Round-Up can join the voluntary program via the website, or by calling 800-831-8629 to speak with a customer service representative.

ACEC's Operation Round-Up donation to the Beaver Dam-based Clothes for Kids program will be used to support the organization's Back-to-School program. Pictured are (l-r) Jodi Slowiak, executive director for Clothes for Kids; and Karen Decker, Operation Round-Up director.



MY CO-OP



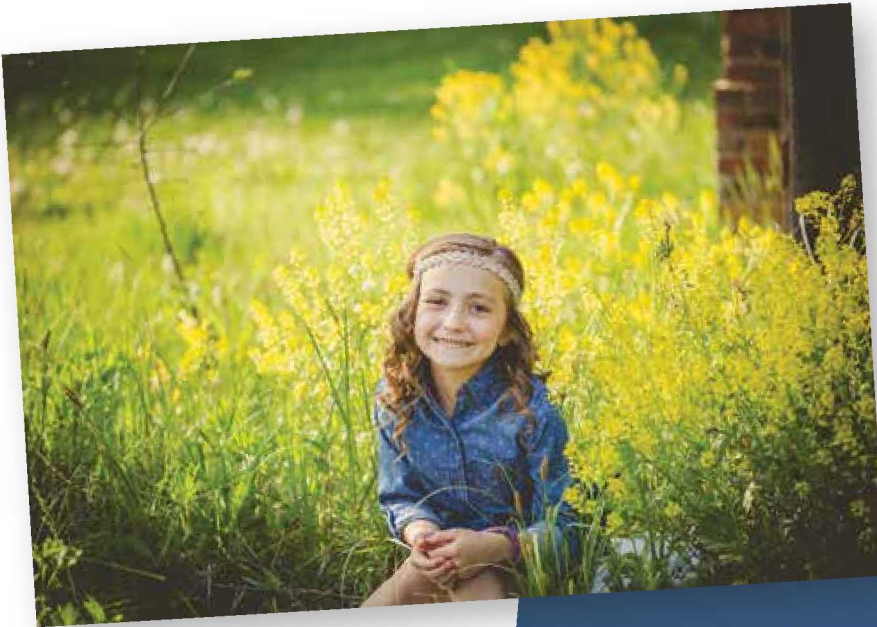
Now is the time to book your home energy assessment. This 12-step assessment pinpoints any areas of your home that, once upgraded, could save you money on your energy bills. Our energy pros will examine your home top to bottom. Call us or visit our website to learn more.

(800) 831-8629 • acecwi.com



ACEC Calendar Photos

August



Wood County

Youth photo by Brooklyn Spaw

This month's featured photo comes from 8-year-old Brooklyn Spaw. Her photo is a self-portrait taken with Aunt Kate's help. Brooklyn and her aunt spend a lot of time together taking pictures. This photo was taken on a beautiful summer day at Point Basse in Wood County. Brooklyn loves outdoor activities, especially fishing. Next year she will be a third-grade student at Roche-a-Cri Elementary school.


Waushara County

Member photo by Jane Wegenke

Jane Wegenke retired seven years ago from the UW Carbone Cancer Center in Madison. Photography helps her see things with a more discerning and detailed eye. She frequently has her camera by her side as was the case the day she captured this dragon fly on a budding lily pad while fishing on a small lake in Waushara County. The lacy wings and soft colors of this little creature often go unnoticed.



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Customer Service & Billing
Power Outage Reporting
Diggers Hotline
www.acecwi.com

800-831-8629
888-928-2232
800-242-8511

Jay A. Porter, PE—CEO
Keith Wohlfert—Editor

Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:00

The Friendship Service Center is located in the Village of Friendship, in Adams County. From Highway 13, travel east three blocks on East Lake Street. Lake Street is also marked as County Highway J.

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative maintains operations facilities in Pardeeville and Wautoma. These facilities are not open for general business; however, drive-up payment stations are available at both locations. ACEC employees will meet with cooperative members in Pardeeville and Wautoma by prearranged appointment only.