




Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**By Jay A. Porter,  
PE, Chief Executive  
Officer**

## ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN

With the end of summer comes the start of another school year. Once again, the roadsides are dotted with clusters of children waiting for their school bus. As they head back to school, children may have more on their minds than their own safety.

With seven children of my own, I can attest to how distracted they can be. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to please be extra careful when driving.

Be sure to stop for a school bus with flashing red lights. You never know when a child will dart out in front of your car. Also, remember that failure to stop at least 20 feet from the bus and remain stopped until the red lights are turned off or the bus resumes motion can bring a fine of \$30 to \$300. Drive slowly with your eyes on the road. Most school zones post speed limits of 15 miles per hour.

### ACEC's Member Advisory Committee

Thanks also go out to ACEC members who volunteer to serve on our Member Advisory Committee. This is a diverse and dynamic group that has provided meaningful feedback on several areas of our operation. It's a job that doesn't require a great amount of time, just a couple nights per year. The committee meets with the board of directors and staff and provides valuable insight and suggestions to assist in our decision-making process. It is a fantastic opportunity for member representatives to have input into the business of the cooperative, plus a chance to learn how your cooperative is advancing service ideas for all members.

Our intent is to have representatives from all areas of our electric service territory participating on the Advisory Committee, so if you are interested in being involved, contact our office or the member of the board of directors from your area. We hope you will consider this method of sharing your ideas and viewpoints with us.

Just want to remind everyone that our monthly board minutes are published on our website.

### Youth Leadership Congress

Please take a moment to read about the 54th Youth Leadership Congress on the next page. Every year it is our pleasure to send a delegation of young leaders to be part of

this long-standing program, which was one of the first of its kind in the nation. Based on feedback from this year's delegates and the comments from the chaperones, I know the program is as meaningful today as it was in 1963.

### Shred-it Member Appreciation Event

On page 17, please take note of ACEC's first-ever Shred-It event next month. Dates and times are included, with one day each in Friendship, Pardeeville and Wautoma. There will be no charge for this member-only event. All of your paper documents will be shredded on site that same day. There may be a short delay, depending on the length of the line; if you prefer, you can watch your documents be shredded.

The Shred-It event reminds me of the concerns that all

### Please take note of ACEC's first ever Shred-it Member Appreciation Event

of us should have for security of our personal documents and privacy of our personal information. Occasionally ACEC will publish our practices on privacy and security. These are not new practices; they have been in place for

several years and reflect the working attitude of everyone at Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative. We were protecting our members' personal information long before cybercrimes ever became front-page news.

With the promise that we will keep your personal information out of the hands of telemarketers and other prying eyes, let me remind you of the importance of keeping your member contact information up-to-date. All of our member service programs work best with current information in the database; this is especially true of our power outage reporting system.

### Jay's Discussion Days

Last month it was announced that I will be available one day per month at our Pardeeville and Wautoma service centers. I hope you can stop in Pardeeville on September 12, or in Wautoma on September 18 for an opportunity for us to meet. I am regularly available at our Friendship headquarters. Just give me a call.





# 54<sup>th</sup> WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a big hit with students

Understanding the cooperative difference and identifying traits of leaders are just two of the topics that highlighted the 54th WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC). Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative (ACEC) sponsored 11 high school students to the 2017 YLC held July 26–28 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. This annual event is coordinated by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperation Association on behalf of the state's rural electric cooperatives.

Students from around the state participated in the three-day program. Through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences, participants were exposed to a variety of real-life issues. They were given opportunities to identify and explore their leadership potential. Dynamic professional speakers, teen peers, and cooperative employees provided participants with information and tools to deal with the weighty issues high school students face every day. The program also included social and recreational time to introduce the students to college life.

Motivational speaker Craig Hillier returned to the Youth Leadership Congress. The staff of UW-River Falls challenged delegates to complete several mental and physical activities



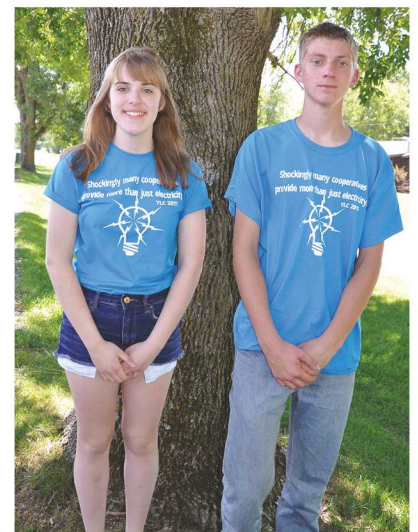
using teamwork and cooperation as essential ingredients for a successful outcome. New to the program was hypnotist Dr. Al Snyder from Mondovi. His highly entertaining program was a favorite topic of discussion for the remainder of the conference.

Professor Dr. David Trechter from the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture talked about the cooperative business model and the impact cooperatives have on our everyday lives. At the banquet, YLC delegates learned the fine points of formal dinner etiquette from UW-River Falls Professor Melissa Wilson.

Delegates leave the three-day conference with valuable leadership skills they can use both in school and in their community activities. Each delegate is

encouraged to reflect on his or her experiences and then participate in an annual essay contest. Educational scholarships are awarded to top entrants.

Students interested in attending the 2018 Youth Leadership Congress can learn more through their school or directly from ACEC's newsletters and website. To be eligible, students must be in their sophomore or junior year of high school. They must also be from an ACEC member family. The tentative dates for next year's program are July 25–27, 2018.



Left: Representing Adams-Columbia at the 54th Youth Leadership Congress are: (l-r) Colin Damm, Columbus; Ryan Wollin, Friendship; Timothy Hicks, Adams; Seth Reilly, Portage; Kaylee Franz, Sun Prairie; Emma Zook, Dalton; Erica Schlachter, Friendship; Gracelyn Footit, Wisconsin Dells; Branden Lentz, Montello; Alyssa Schlachter, Friendship; and Ryan Baxter, Friendship. Right: Gracelyn Footit, Wisconsin Dells, and Colin Damm, Columbus were finalist candidates for the 2018 Youth Board. Gracelyn was selected to serve on the six-person board; Colin will be an alternate to the board.





join us

### SHRED-IT EVENT

Friendship  
Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Pardeeville  
Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Wautoma  
Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

Cooperatives nationwide have been celebrating October as Co-op month for the last 50 years. During this time, we like to emphasize the cooperative difference and the perks of being a member.

As one of those member perks, we will be providing a document shredding event to our members, free of charge. Simply bring your sensitive documents to one of our locations on the event date, and Shred-it will destroy them on site.



Making sure  
it's secure.™

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Patronage Capital

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is holding unclaimed patronage capital funds for former members of Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op, Adams-Marquette Electric Co-Op, Columbus Rural Electric Co-op, or Wauhsara Electric Co-op.

Funds for these people have been unclaimed for three years. In accordance with Cooperative bylaws, after 60 days from this publication, the unclaimed funds shall be forfeited from the Cooperative to be used for educational loans, scholarships, or to charitable purposes.

The listing of names is published on our website: [www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com), under the About Us menu option, select Cooperative Advantage and Patronage Capital, where you will find Unclaimed Patronage Capital Funds. If you do not have access to our website, you may request a listing by contacting our office during regular business hours.

If you know the whereabouts of these former members, please ask either the individual member or the estate executor to contact us at the Adams-Columbia office shown below. When writing to us, please include information to verify the person is the same one we are trying to locate. A previous mailing address, service address, street, road, or fire number where service was received would be helpful.

Regular business hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you prefer e-mail, address your message to [jwilson@acecwi.com](mailto:jwilson@acecwi.com).

We respond to all inquiries, but due to the large volume of inquiries please be patient as we do our best to serve you, our Member.



Adams-Columbia  
Electric Cooperative

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(800) 831-8629

[www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com)





## ACEC Calendar Photos

# September

### Green Lake County

#### Youth photo by Sadie Goettl

A six-year 4-H Club member, Sadie Goettl enjoys showing pigs and steers at the county fair, along with foods, arts and photography. Sadie will be a freshman at Berlin High School. She plays piano, saxophone, and violin. Sadie also participates in karate as a second-degree black belt. Nature scenes are among her favorite photo subjects. Sadie's winning photo was taken at the Mill Pond in Green Lake.




### Marquette County

#### Member photo by John Wegenke

Growing up in Marquette County, John Wegenke enjoyed numerous wildlife encounters. Now he takes pleasure in capturing images of the wildlife and landscape of this area. This moment was caught on his way to his favorite fishing hole when this young raccoon was contemplating a trip out into the world from the security of his tree house.



### Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

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Customer Service & Billing 800-831-8629  
Power Outage Reporting 888-928-2232  
Diggers Hotline 800-242-8511  
[www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com)

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.