


Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



By Jay A. Porter, PE,
Chief Executive

ALAN KELSEY RETIRES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With his current term of office due to expire at the 2017 annual meeting, longtime director Alan Kelsey recently announced his decision to retire from Adams-Columbia's board of directors. Completing his fourth term,

Alan was first elected to the board in 2005. Living in rural Waterloo, Alan was our board representative from District 11, near the southern reaches of our service area.

With his training as an electrical engineer, coupled with his experiences as a U.S. Air Force pilot and those of a dairy farmer, Alan brought a unique perspective to our board of directors. He never stopped furthering his knowledge and understanding of the cooperative business. While on the board, he completed the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Program, and the NRECA Board Leadership Program. Alan has been a member of our cooperative since 1966.

Alan and Margaret have since retired from dairy farming but continue to live in the same neighborhood. They're active in the FFA Alumni State Council, and as 4-H project leaders. Alan is a Big Brother in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program of Dodge County. He also volunteers to do maintenance work at St. Joseph Catholic School in Waterloo. Those activities are in harmony with his hobbies of woodworking and supporting youth education programs.

Adams-Columbia has never had a stronger supporter of

Board
Chairman
Kendal
Nichols, left,
presents
retiring
director Alan
Kelsey with
a certificate
at Kelsey's
final board
meeting.



cooperatives. Alan believes that cooperatives function like extended families, and like families, cooperatives take care of their own. We will miss his leadership, especially when it comes to taking on difficult problems with equally complex solutions. In Alan's own words: "I am the product of a one-room school, and live in a traditional agricultural community. Others live in neighborhoods that look much different than the view from my window. This diversity and a sincere respect for other points of view are two of our greatest strengths as a cooperative."

Alan, we thank you for your service to our cooperative, and wish you and Margaret all the best in retirement.

Annual Meeting

With the magazine deadline approaching, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's 30th annual meeting on Tuesday, May 16, is still a few days away. We're tending to the last-minute details, including our report to the membership. Bauman Associates from Eau Claire completed the audit of our 2016 financial records. The entire report is available on our website. Look for a complete review of the annual meeting in next month's magazine.

Patronage Capital

Your patronage capital allocation notice will appear on the electric bill you receive in June. The notice will show the amount of patronage capital allocated for 2016 along with your total unretired patronage capital balance. This amount represents your ownership in the cooperative and the amount to be returned to you in future years. Let me direct your attention to an article and informative graphic on page 16 that explain the annual cycle of patronage capital. Members with questions about patronage capital or their allocation notice are encouraged to contact Jacqueline at our Friendship office. Use our toll-free number: 1-800-831-8629.

Member Appreciation Event

Adams-Columbia's premier member appreciation event for 2017 will be held on Saturday, June 17, at the Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells. Each member is eligible to register for up to four free tickets to this event, but the June 2 deadline is quickly approaching. If you have not registered, we hope you will do so today. For registration details, visit our website at acecwi.com.



PATRONAGE CAPITAL

A cooperative is defined as an enterprise that is collectively owned and operated for mutual benefit. Cooperatives are owned by the people they serve; the service is intended to be offered at cost. All margins remaining after subtracting operating expenses are divided among members based on usage. The margins to be returned to members are called patronage capital. They represent the amount of ownership a member has in the cooperative.

Electric cooperatives do not have stockholders and they do not pay dividends. Upon application, members agree to reinvest their margins into the cooperative. The member agrees to allow the cooperative to use these margins to retire old debt, purchase new equipment, and to maintain a reserve fund for

emergencies such as wide-spread storm damage.

ACEC is always working to develop a more efficient operation to reduce operating expenses. By using member-owned margins your cooperative can avoid borrowing money at high interest rates. This is a true advantage of a cooperative and is the main contributing element to reduced rates for all members.

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Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's Patronage Capital Program

1 Co-op member flips the lights on and uses electricity provided by ACEC.

2 ACEC member pays electric bills January through December.

3 ACEC computer tracks energy use and the patronage revenue (money) received for each account.

9 Patronage capital is distributed to qualifying ACEC members. Each year, the board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative and determines the amount and method of issuing patronage capital to members.



4 Calendar year ends in December.

5 ACEC staff members complete final year-end bookwork, co-op books are audited, and final financial obligations are met.

8 Patronage capital allocation notices are issued to members.

7 Board of directors approves excess revenue (profits) to be allocated to members as patronage capital.

6 Income received over and above expenses (profit) is determined.

Explore Your Leadership Potential!

Youth Leadership Congress July 26–28 at UW–River Falls

Understanding the cooperative difference and identifying traits of leaders are just two of the topics to highlight the 54th WECA Youth Leadership Congress

(YLC). This year's program is scheduled for July 26–28, 2017, and will be held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–River Falls.

Through a mix of seminar sessions and hands-on activities, participants are exposed to real-life issues and are given

the opportunity to identify and explore their leadership potential. Top-notch professional speakers and college professors provide students with information and tools to deal with the important issues teenagers face every day. It's also an opportunity to sample life on a college campus.

The YLC is a fun, educational, and unique event that is planned by and for teens. There is no charge for delegates attending YLC.

To qualify as a delegate to the YLC, students must be a:

- Sophomore or junior in high school this current school year (2016–17)
- Child of a family served by Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative
- First-time YLC attendee

If this program sounds interesting, please act quickly! Tell your friends, and sign up online at www.acecwi.com. The deadline for application is Friday, June 10, 2016.



CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!

Enter your photos in ACEC's Member and Youth Photo Contest! Winning photos will be featured in our 2018 Member Calendar. Visit www.acecwi.com for contest details!

Submit your photos at www.acecwi.com by Friday, August 18, 2017





ACEC Calendar Photos

June

Adams County

Member photo by Coral Smith

Members of the Smith family are generally lovers of nature, and living in the country gives them ample photo opportunities. Coral is one to keep her camera handy for occasions like this photo of a yellow goat beard giant dandelion. She says they are neat to look at from a distance, but close up, they are a thing of true beauty.




Columbia County

Youth photo by Ava Grove

Ava Gove is an 11-year-old fifth-grade student in Cambria-Friesland Schools and is a member of the Welsh Prairie Livewires 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Brian and Heather Gove. Ava's pet chickens are the subject of her winning photo. Along with photography and her chickens, Ava enjoys basketball and doing jumping tricks on the trampoline.



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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

800-831-8629
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800-242-8511

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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.