



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



ACEC DIRECTOR DISTRICTS AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Jay A. Porter, PE,
Chief Executive Officer

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was created in 1987 through a merger of the former

Adams-Marquette Electric Cooperative and the former Columbus Rural Electric Cooperative. In 1992, a second successful merger combined the then five-year-old Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative with the former Waushara Electric Cooperative. One of the results of these mergers was the creation of an 11-person board of directors. At this time director districts were redrawn to reflect the new 12-county service area.

Plans to incrementally reduce the size of the board have been discussed in recent years. A 2013 Bylaw amendment authorized the board to reduce its size. Longtime board member Alan Kelsey has now chosen not to run for re-election when his term expires at the 2017 annual meeting. Carolyn Moon recently announced her decision to leave the board effective at the end of her term in 2018. While we regret the loss of board leadership provided by Carolyn and Alan, their decisions provide us with a unique opportunity.

Your board of directors has decided to create a smaller board, with seven districts and nine members. The district map has been redrawn to have seven districts with two board positions At Large, with no more than two directors allowed from any one district. Page 16a is a service area map with the new seven director districts. The faces will be familiar, and board members' respective terms of office are unchanged, but some district numbers have been changed. Karen Fahey and Scott Parr's positions have been designated as At Large positions. Since Karen's position is up for election, that means any member, except those living in District 3 (where two continuing directors reside), who is interested in running for that seat may do so.

2017 Annual Meeting

Also in the next few pages of this magazine you will find information related to ACEC's 2017 annual meeting. If you want to submit an advisory resolution for consideration at the annual meeting in May, now is the time to do so. By

submitting it now, there is time for the Rules Committee to review it and make sure the intent of an advisory resolution is clear. The deadline to submit an advisory resolution for consideration at the 2017 annual meeting is Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Another early notice item is nomination of director candidates. As you will see in that notice, the due date to have nominations filed is Wednesday, February 15, 2017. If you live in a district that has an election this year and you want to be considered for a board position, or if you want to run for the At Large position that is up for election, please have your nominating petitions filed by that date. Pages 16b and 16c describe the qualifications and process for those interested in running for the board and last year's annual meeting rules. Those rules include how to submit an advisory resolution for

consideration by the Rules Committee.

I'll close with a few words about Adams-Columbia's line clearing program. Trees and power lines are not a good mix, especially in the midst of significant weather

Your board of directors has decided to create a smaller board, with nine members as a next step.

events. That was the case on November 18 and 19 when all of southern Wisconsin endured winds in excess of 40 miles per hour. During that two-day period, ACEC recorded only six power outages attributed to the wind. At such times we are reminded of the cost-savings and convenience benefits that come from an aggressive and effective line-clearing program implemented over several years. I also want to thank all of our members who understand the need to clear our rights-of-way and have worked with us to achieve this level of reliability.

Among the wind-related power outages recorded was one of particular note from the Plainfield area. A live poplar tree growing well away from our right-of-way came down in the wind. It tore down our lines which resulted in a brush fire and some property damage. Thankfully there were no personal injuries, but it reminds us to be aware and to keep a safe distance from downed electric lines, no matter the circumstances.



ADAMS—COLUMBIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Adams—Columbia Electric Cooperative is proud to announce its 30th Annual Educational Scholarship program. Through the years hundreds of students from cooperative member families have been honored with scholarships. These

Scholarship application forms are available exclusively on ACEC's website at www.acecwi.com from early January through the application deadline in February.

scholarships have traditionally been awarded in amounts of \$250 to \$1,000 each.

Scholarships are awarded in all fields of post-secondary education from vocational to graduate studies. According to program guidelines, scholarships are available to adults and dependent children of all ACEC member families; non-guardian grandchildren of ACEC members are not eligible. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of need and excellence in academics, social, and community service activities.

This program adds no cost to the members' electric bill. It is funded entirely from unclaimed patronage.

Adams—Columbia members (of all ages) who are enrolled in adult educational programs are encouraged to complete a scholarship application

and submit it by the deadline date. The application forms and other scholarship information can be found exclusively on Adams—Columbia's website at www.acecwi.com.

The deadline for returning completed applications is Friday, February 10, 2017. Please be prompt in completing and returning your scholarship application. Scholarship applications will not be accepted after the deadline date.

Completed applications cannot be sent in electronic form or as attachments to email messages. Please mail your completed scholarship application with sufficient postage to:

Adams—Columbia Electric Cooperative
Attn: Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070

ACEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



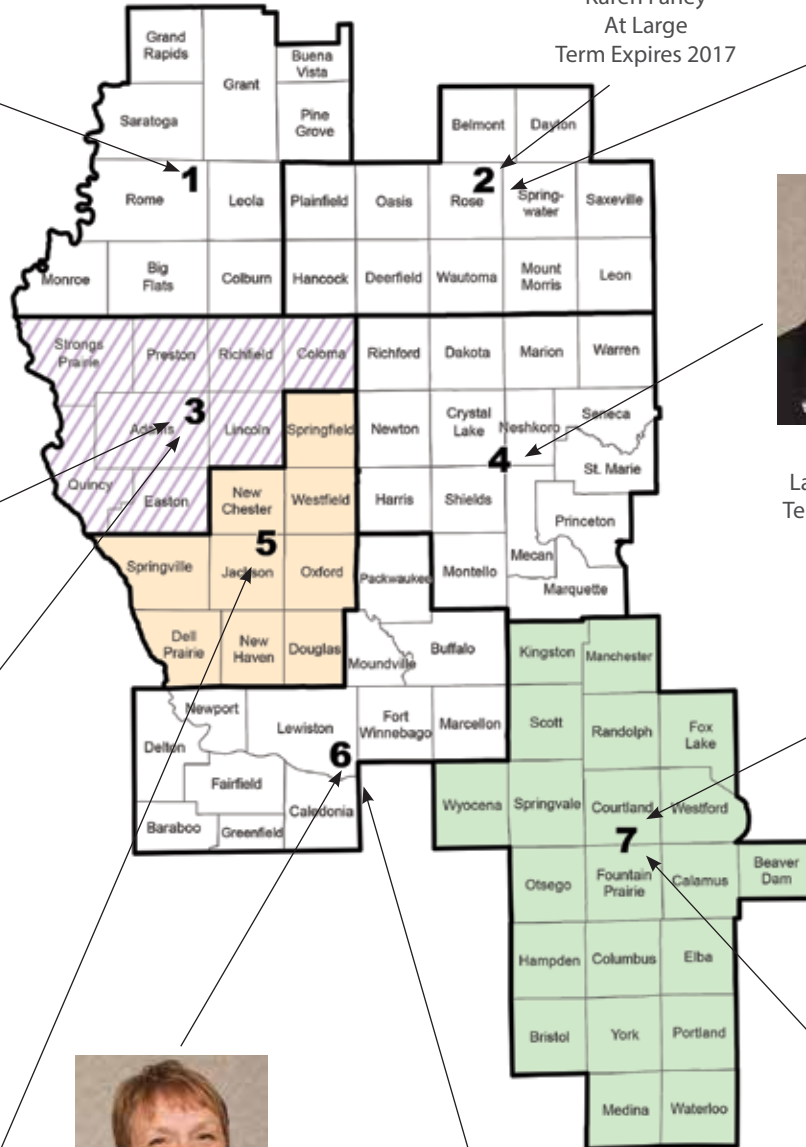
District 1
Gene Alexander
Term Expires 2018



District 2
Karen Fahey
At Large
Term Expires 2017



District 2
Patrick Connolly
Term Expires 2019



District 3
Scott Parr
At Large
Term Expires 2018



District 4
Lawrence Becker
Term Expires 2019



District 3
Marj Colby
Term Expires 2019



District 7
Alan Kelsey
Term Expires 2017



District 5
Kendal Nichols
Term Expires 2017



District 6
Cheri Gibeaut
Term Expires 2018



District 6
Carolyn Moon
Term Expires 2018



District 7
Scott Link
Term Expires 2017

In 2017, District 5 and 7 residents are eligible to run for board seats in their respective districts. Residents in all districts, except District 3, are eligible to run for the At Large Director opening.



Adams–Columbia Electric Cooperative’s 2017 annual meeting will be held on the evening of Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at the Fine Arts Center at the Adams-Friendship High School in Adams. Contained on these pages is important information about activities and timelines leading up to the meeting. More specifically: nomination by petition for director elections and the procedure to propose resolutions to the ACEC Rules Committee.

Nomination by Petition

Adams–Columbia’s Bylaws outline the procedure by which director candidates are nominated. The bylaws state that nomination of candidates for director shall be by petition. To be valid, a petition shall be signed by not less than 25 members and shall be delivered to the cooperative’s Friendship office by Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

In the event no valid petitions have been filed by that date, the board shall appoint a Nominating Committee from members of the respective district. These nominating committee members may be selected from the Member Advisory Committee.

With only seven districts, District two now has two directors, with one being designated At Large. That At Large position is open for any member other than from District three, because that district already has two members currently and neither is up for election this year. If you live in one of the eligible districts we encourage you to consider nomination by petition to have your name placed on the ballot for a director’s position. (Refer to the ACEC service area map on page 16a.)

Director qualifications are cited in the cooperative’s Bylaws. Among the qualifications to serve as an ACEC director are:

- To be a full-time resident and member in good standing in the director district from which he or she has been nominated.
- Cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling energy or supplies to the cooperative.
- Cannot have been in default on any obligations to the cooperative in the preceding 12 months.
- Cannot have been employed in any capacity by the cooperative within five years of the date of election.
- Cannot be an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective county, state or federal office filled by election on a party ticket.
- To have not been convicted of any felony or of any other offense involving a breach of trust.

ACEC Rules Committee

In 2013 the cooperative's Bylaws were changed to include the establishment of a Rules Committee that is tasked with establishing rules for governing the annual meeting. A majority of the Rules Committee is comprised of Advisory Committee members, but also includes several members from the cooperative's board of directors.

The Rules Committee has determined that in order to properly review and make recommendations to the board of directors and the membership on any resolutions to be brought before the membership at the annual meeting, any such advisory resolution a member would like to propose must be submitted to the cooperative by Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Well in advance of the annual meeting, the Rules Committee will meet to review any proposed member advisory resolutions submitted by the February 15 deadline. They will begin the review/research process in order to present complete and accurate information at the annual meeting. It may be necessary for the committee to meet more than once to complete their work. Ultimately, if a member submits a proposed resolution before the deadline, the member may then bring the resolution to the floor at the annual meeting.



2016 Annual Meeting Rules

1. Except as specifically modified below, the meeting will be conducted in accordance with ACEC Bylaws, Board Policy #2-18, and the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the chair before speaking.
3. Only members and duly registered guests will be recognized by the chair; each person so recognized must give his or her name and show their voting card.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the chair, those recognized are to limit their questions and comments to three minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
5. Questions and comments from members and duly registered guests will be in order during old and new business sessions, and at the conclusion of the officer reports, if invited.
6. No resolution affecting Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative may be submitted by any member, unless written copies have been received by Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative by February 15, 2017, in accordance with the procedures established by the Rules Committee. This will permit time for review by the Rules Committee to make its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.
7. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the Annual Meeting. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the cooperative supports or opposes any resolution or candidate for director.
8. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

2016 Annual Meeting Voting Procedures

1. Voting may be by voice vote (one vote per membership).
2. Each member will be given a voting card (one card per membership), which the member should hold up to be recognized or to designate his or her vote as directed by the chair.
3. If requested by the chair or the members, voting will be by show of hands (with voting card).
4. Voting will be done by each member holding up his or her card so that the voting card may be seen and counted by the chair.

ARTICLE III, Section 9. Rules Committee.

The Board of Directors shall each year appoint a Rules Committee, the majority of which shall be members of the Advisory Committee but which may also include directors

and other members of the cooperative. In any year in which an Advisory Committee has not been appointed, a majority of the members of the Rules Committee shall be non-director members of the cooperative. The committee shall establish rules to govern the conduct of the next annual meeting. The rules shall include a deadline for members to submit any advisory resolutions relating to the affairs of the cooperative that they plan to present at the annual meeting, which deadline shall be communicated to the membership. The committee shall also have responsibility for considering any proposed advisory resolutions that are timely submitted by members. In consultation with the board and the chief executive officer, the committee shall determine whether additional information should be presented to the membership to ensure a full airing of the issue and an informed decision by the membership on the matter. The committee in its report to the membership may make a recommendation concerning disposition of any such resolution.



Toy Drive Benefits Area Kids



ACEC employees pose by some of the toys donated this year. Pictured (l-r) are: Heather Smith, Jay Porter, Haley Melby, Jon Gessner, Annie Hebior, and Bill Gneiser.

The Christmas spirit shined brightly in central Wisconsin, thanks to the kind efforts of everyone who participated in Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's (ACEC) annual toy drive. In each of the past 16 Decembers, ACEC has collected and distributed over 8,000 toys with the generous assistance of several local organizations.

All toys and money donated locally stay in our area. Donations made in Adams County went to Angel Tree; donations in Waushara

County went to Waushara County Christmas Project; and donations in Marquette County were distributed through The Giving Tree. The important thing is that we are local people helping local children and their families.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to those businesses and individuals who donated through ACEC's 2016 Toy Drive. You helped make Christmas just a little brighter for a child somewhere in central Wisconsin.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated through ACEC's 2016 Christmas toy drive.

MY CO-OP



Left: (front to back) Anne Guderski, Hazel Chmielewski, Maxine Kersky, and Roseanne Yasick sort toys given in Marquette County. Center: Pictured with toys collected at A-F Motors are Kara Wormet (left), Megan Schnolis (front) and Stephanie Garrett Hampton. Right: Julie Hadel gathers the toys collected at Thrivent Financial in Wautoma.



ACEC Calendar Photos

January



Adams County

**Member photo by
Tammy Travis**

Tammy Travis says that photography is a fairly new hobby that she started when she received a digital camera for Christmas one year. It has since become something she enjoys very much. Tammy's winning photo was taken on her family's Adams County farm shortly after a snowstorm.


Adams County

**Youth photo by
Anna Dahlke**

Anna Dahlke is a seventh grade student at the Adams-Friendship Middle School. In addition to photography, she enjoys showing livestock, sewing, and playing basketball and softball. Her winning sunset photo was taken looking across a field near her Adams County home.



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.