




**Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



## LOCAL STUDENT DESIGNS ACEC CHRISTMAS CARD

Students at Adams-Friendship Elementary participated in a coloring contest to have their artwork featured as the 2017 Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op Christmas Card. Thank you to Mrs. Keller's fourth-grade art class for all the wonderful drawings. The winning artwork was drawn by Kyra, age 9.

"Art is my favorite subject, so I'm really excited that my drawing was picked," Kyra said. "I feel like I get to be a part of something famous."



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

## BOARD APPROVES 2018 BUDGET

At the November board meeting, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative staff presented the board of directors with the proposed work plan and budget for 2018. After a lengthy question and answer session the board approved the proposed 2018 budget with two minor amendments.

As our wholesale power costs from our supplier, Alliant Energy, are increasing, we are working hard to reduce operating expenses and capital projects—like poles and wire. These efforts, along with reducing patronage capital retirements, allow us to lessen the pressure of increased rates.

Though it may not be possible to avoid rate increases altogether, these efforts to control costs and maintain equity may minimize rate increases. The co-op's investment in the West Riverside Energy Center Project is another measure we are taking to attempt to stabilize rates and minimize increases in the future.

Adams-Columbia's Rules and Regulations along with rates will be reviewed in the coming months by staff. The recommended changes will be presented to the board of directors and will be considered for approval at upcoming board meetings. Look to future publications for any changes that may occur to our Rules and Regulations or rates.

Last month, I announced our 2018 annual meeting will be held at the Portage High School Auditorium on the evening of Tuesday, May 15, 2018. As you may recall, last year the board size was reduced from 11 members to nine. The district map was redrawn to have seven districts, with two At-Large board positions, and no more than two directors allowed from any one district. This year there are three seats up for election: District 1, District 6, and an At-Large seat.

The next few pages contain information on how you can participate in the governance of your cooperative, with information on the director candidate nomination process and how to submit an advisory resolution to the Rules Committee.

The application for our educational scholarship is now available on our website. Scholarships are awarded in all fields of post-secondary education. The scholarship program is funded entirely by unclaimed patronage capital and adds no cost to your electric bill. Additional details can be found on page 16.

From all of us at your cooperative, we wish you a BRIGHT New Year!

**This year there are  
three seats up for  
election: District  
1, District 6, and an  
At-Large seat.**

MY CO-OP



# ADAMS-COLUMBIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S



**T**his year marks Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's 31st Annual Educational Scholarship program. Throughout the years hundreds of students who are members of Adams-Columbia have been awarded scholarships. These scholarships range in denominations of \$250 to \$1,000.

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 your electric bill. It is funded entirely from unclaimed patronage capital.**

Adams-Columbia members (of all ages) who are enrolled in adult educational programs are encouraged to complete an 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](http://www.acecwi.com).

**The deadline for returning completed applications is Friday, February 9, 2018.** 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



**ENTER TO WIN A \$50 LIGHT BILL CREDIT! JUST SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB!**

VISIT [ACECWI.COM](http://ACECWI.COM) AND LOG INTO SMARTHUB. DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>.



# ACEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



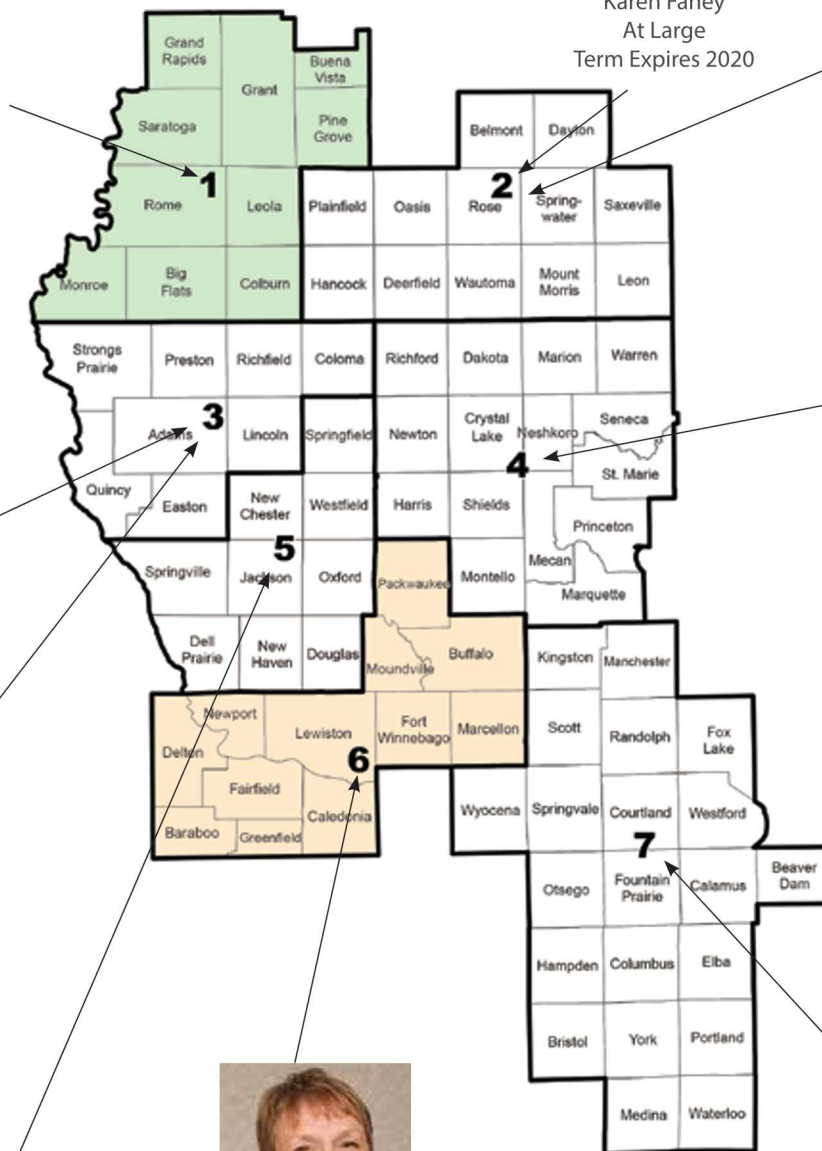
**District 1**  
Gene Alexander  
Term Expires 2018



**District 2**  
Karen Fahey  
At Large  
Term Expires 2020



**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 5**  
Kendal Nichols  
Term Expires 2017



**District 6**  
Cheri Gibeaut  
Term Expires 2018



**District 7**  
Scott Link  
Term Expires 2020

In 2018, District 1 and 6 residents are eligible to run for board seats in their respective districts. Residents in all districts, except District 2, are eligible to run for the At Large director opening.





# 2018 ANNUAL MEETING & NOMINATION BY PETITION



**Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's 2018 Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 15, at the Portage High School Auditorium, beginning at 6 p.m.**

## Three director seats up for election this year

In 2018, District 1 and 6 residents are eligible to run for board seats in their respective districts. Residents in all districts, except District 2, (where two continuing directors reside) are eligible to run for the At Large director position.

## Are you interested in running for a board seat?

### Qualifications

Director qualifications are cited in the cooperative's Bylaws:

- 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.

## How to run

Adams-Columbia's Bylaws outline the procedure by which director candidates are nominated. The Bylaws state that the 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 14, 2018.**

**If you are interested in running for a director's seat, contact Linda Mohns at 800-831-8629.**



# ADVISORY RESOLUTIONS & ACEC RULES COMMITTEE

## What is an advisory resolution?

By submitting an advisory resolution, you are bringing forth your recommendation on a cooperative matter to be reviewed by the Rules Committee.

## What is the rules committee?

The Rules Committee is comprised of members of the Advisory Committee and ACEC directors. The Rules Committee is tasked with establishing the rules for governing the annual meeting, and reviewing advisory resolutions submitted by members.

## What is the advisory resolution process?

Recommendations are reviewed by the Rules Committee; if accepted, you can bring forth your advisory resolution to the membership at the annual meeting. If the membership approves the resolution it is then brought to the board of directors as an advisory resolution.

## Who can submit an advisory resolution?

Any member can submit an advisory resolution. The deadline to submit an advisory resolution to be considered for the 2018 Annual Meeting is February 14, 2018.

## VOTING OPTIONS

*Voting for your  
directors is easier  
than ever!*

### Cooperative Principal #2 – DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Your elected directors make decisions that impact the governance of your electric cooperative. Make your voice heard—VOTE!

#### Options

- In person at the meeting
- Via absentee ballot
- eVote

Watch future publications for details on eVote and absentee ballot.







Wautoma high school students (left to right) Sky, Kaylie, Madison, Karlie, Rosi, Daniela, Aaron

## ACEC'S TOY DRIVE BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN

Every year, children wake up and run to the Christmas tree, only to wonder why Santa forgot them. This year, you should be proud to know that because of your donations to Adams-Columbia's Annual Toy Drive with Toys for Tots, children in our area will not have to experience this! Thanks to you, we were able to bring happiness to approximately 2,000 children on Christmas morning. We hope you are filled with holiday cheer knowing that you were able to provide a gift for a child.

Thank you for keeping the spirit of Santa alive!

### A bit about Adams-Columbia's toy drive:

All toys and money donated locally stays in our area. Here is the list of the organizations and businesses that distributed toys in each county.

- Adams – Angel Tree
- Waushara – Waushara Industries
- Sauk – Children's Giving Tree
- Green Lake – Angel Tree
- Columbia – Midwest Dental in Pardeeville
- Columbia/Dodge – Gertrud's Christian Christmas Fund in Randolph
- Columbia/Dodge – NICC Foundation in Columbus

Our goal is to help as many families as we can, so if you or someone you know runs a program to provide toys to families for the holidays, please reach out to us for our 2018 annual toy drive.



Wautoma high school students shop for ACEC's Annual Toy Drive with Toys for Tots.





1.



2.



3.

## STUDENTS HOLD A PENNY WAR

We had a goal to teach children that they can make a difference in their communities too, and boy did they show us! Students from Wautoma High School and Adams-Friendship Elementary competed in a penny war to support their local Toys for Tots program. Wautoma High School raised \$1,500 and Adams-Friendship Elementary raised an impressive \$2,000!

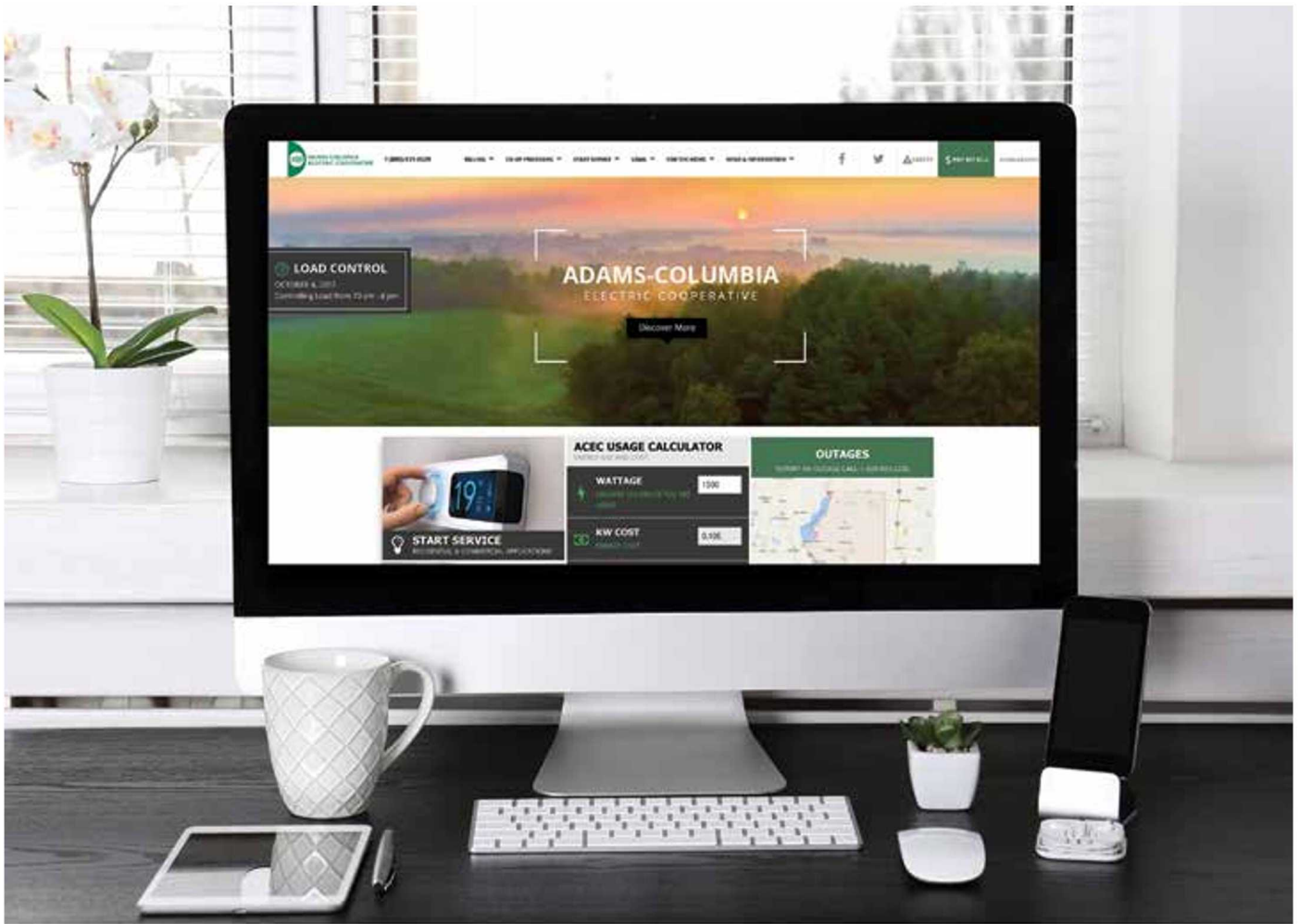
The winning homeroom from each school won a pizza party, courtesy of Christianos in Wautoma and Bucky's Brick Oven Eatery in Adams. In addition, five students from the overall winning grade had the opportunity to "Shop with the Heroes." Students shopped with area Marines for toys to donate to families in need with the funds they raised.

1. The bank ran out of bags when counting all the pennies from Adams-Friendship Elementary School's penny war.
2. Haley and Allison pick out toys to donate.
3. Pvt. Eli Peterson and Felix shop together.
4. Left to right are Allison, Gabe, Pvt. Peterson, Felix, Taneasha, and Ben.



4.





## ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE


Simplified navigation to make it easier to find what you're looking for.

Responsive layout on any device.

Streamlined content to give you easy access to all the information you want.



### Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Customer Service & Billing	800-831-8629
IVR Payment 24/7	1-844-219-1223
Power Outage Reporting	888-928-2232
Diggers Hotline	800-242-8511

Jay A. Porter, PE—CEO  
Ashley Miller—Editor

#### Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70  
Friendship, WI 53934-0070  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:00  
[www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com)

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.