# CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY PARTNER

**JUNE 2018** 





Your source for Co-op news and information.

## **ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

A big thank you to all members who gathered at Portage High School on the evening of May 15th for the 31st Annual Meeting. Pre-meeting entertainment was provided by Maggie Mae, who performed several songs for the crowd and sang the national anthem to begin the meeting.

We understand not everyone can attend the meeting, so we would like to send a big thank you to all of you who used our new eVote option to cast your vote online. With eVote, there were four times as many votes this year than at last year's election.

Three seats were up for election at the meeting: District 1, District 6, and an at-Large position. Gene Alexander was reelected to District 1. Cheri Gibeaut ran unopposed for District 6, and retains her seat. Dietrich Vedder was elected to the at-Large position.

A farewell was wished to the former at-Large director, Scott Parr who served on ACEC's board for 13 years. Appreciation was shown for the many ideas and guidance to the board over the years.



Summer Season is Storm Season

See this month's *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*Magazine for safety tips.

Please update your phone number. When you call our automated outage number, we use your phone number to locate the outage for repairs.

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## **WE GIVE WHERE WE LIVE**

Cooperatives are guided by seven principles that they base their everyday operations on. One of those is Concern for Community. ACEC employees genuinely enjoy being involved in the communities they live and work in. This principle is not something they have to be told to do. They actively seek out ways to better their communities.

Employees engage in after-hours service commitments like highway garbage pick-up, donating goods for events like Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive, Easter basket donations and delivery, diaper drives, and annual toy drives. They donate their time and help raise funds for causes that effect friends, neighbors, and loved ones. You can usually spot an ACEC employee at events supporting causes like MS and cancer research.

ACEC also has donation programs like Operation Round-Up and Federated Youth Foundation. Operation Round-Up funds come from members rounding their electric bills up to the next dollar. Donations have been made for things like new LED lights for the Neshkoro Fire Trucks, furniture in the Children's Room at the Lester Public Library, and camp funds for Easter Seals Wisconsin. Federated Youth Foundation money comes entirely from unclaimed Patronage Capital Retirements. Each year educational scholarships are awarded to qualified applicants. This year we awarded 100 scholarships at \$1,000 each.

### ACEC IS **Proud** of the difference employees make in their communities!









## **UNDERSTANDING THE FACILITY CHARGE**

#### **WHAT IS A FACILITY CHARGE?**

Take a look at your monthly bills —whether it's electricity, natural gas, cable television, or cell phones—every service we use in our home has some kind of monthly charge to cover the cost of providing the service. It might be called a service charge, basic charge, fixed charge or monthly minimum charge. For Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative members, this monthly charge is called a facility charge.

This fixed monthly charge represents the costs of making sure electricity is available and can be delivered to you. This charge covers the meter and a portion of the poles, wires, and line transformer serving you.

#### WHAT DOES THE FACILITY CHARGE COVER?

Simply put, poles, wire, transformers, and substations are not cheap- and all of these items are critical for working electricity. The average cost to install one mile of electrical services is over \$41,000.00!

## WHY SHOULD I PAY A FACILITY CHARGE IF I DON'T USE ANY ELECTRICITY?

The cost to build the line, maintain the system and deliver electricity to a member who doesn't turn on the lights all month vs someone who keeps the lights on 24/7, is the exact same. Even if you don't use much electricity, when you do use it, you count on it to be there when you flip the light switch. Regular maintenance must be done on wires, poles, substations, and other items to ensure that power is safe and reliable.

#### I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR A LONG TIME, SHOULDN'T MY SERVICES BE PAID FOR BY NOW?

If you have been a member for a long time, chances are equipment has been replaced at least once, or even several times. In addition to weather and varmint damage, equipment needs to replaced or upgraded just like a cell phone or a computer.



Holiday

Our offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



Jay's Discussion Days

Visit our CEO, Jay Porter, between 7:30am - 4:00pm Wautoma - 7/10, N1519 State Rd 22 Pardeeville - 7/31, W6290 State Rd 33











