



CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

By Jay A. Porter,
PE, Chief Executive Officer

I will be talking a lot about change in this month's CEO report. We are always looking for ways to keep the cooperative relevant in today's ever-changing, fast-paced world. Technology updates and revised policies are on the horizon.

New Technology

We will begin installing new meters in the coming months. Like the last install, which took place in 2005, it will take over a year to complete this project. The technology we have now is outdated and approaching end of life. If you think back to the cell phone you had 14 years ago compared to today, there have been leaps and bounds in technical advancement. The same is true with our equipment. With the average life of a meter being 15 years, the time for this update is now. These new meters will improve system efficiencies, reliability, and member service. Next month's issue will highlight additional details about the new meters and the installation process.

As always, I would like to remind members to keep their meters clear. Inaccessible equipment will pose problems for our crews in the coming months.

Legislator Visit

ACEC hosted a meet and greet in December with local legislators to discuss what makes cooperatives different and issues that are important to our members. Senator Patrick Testin, Senator Luther Olsen, Representative Joan Ballweg, and Representative Jon Plumer joined me and the board of directors, along with Nathan Franklin, external and member relations from Dairyland Power Cooperative, and Steve Freese, president and CEO of Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association. Some of the topics discussed included rural broadband and pole attachment policy.

Education

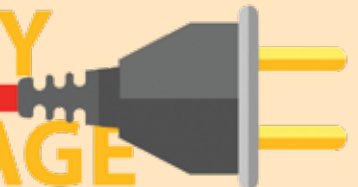
On the following pages you will find information about ACEC's dedication to education. Read about the two different

scholarships we offer, safety education programs, and our new STEM grant. STEM grants will be awarded to teachers with curriculum in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Find details on page 18.

Upcoming Deadlines

The deadline for our educational scholarship is February 8. Even if you have received this scholarship in the past, you are still eligible to apply again. February 8 is also the deadline for nomination by petition and advisory resolutions. So, don't forget to turn in paperwork if you are interested in running for the board of directors or would like to submit a resolution for review.

SAFETY MESSAGE



Cheap Chargers and Heat Hazards

We've all been there—our phone charger seems to grow legs and walks away. Instead of grabbing a cheap charger out of the bargain bin next to the checkout line, be sure that you're purchasing a quality, certified product. Thousands of these off-brand chargers have been recalled for fire hazards and causing damage to electronics. It's also important not to use chargers in bed or under blankets. I have found my daughter playing on her phone while it's charging, cord snaking through the couch and blankets with the charger hot to the touch. While it's nice to save money, the safety issues of bargain chargers outweigh saving a few dollars. Stick to product-approved chargers and cords.

On the Horizon

Education in our Community

Educational Scholarship

For over 30 years, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative (ACEC) has been awarding educational scholarships. Through the years hundreds of students from cooperative member families have been honored with scholarships. These scholarships have traditionally been awarded in amounts of \$250 to \$1,000 each. This year, we are awarding 75, \$1,000 scholarships. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 8th, 2019.

Scholarships are awarded in all fields of post-secondary education from vocational to graduate studies. They are available to adults and dependent children of all ACEC member families currently receiving electric service from ACEC. Scholarships are 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 capital checks that are issued by the cooperative.

Adams-Columbia members (of all ages) that are enrolled in adult education programs are encouraged to apply. Also, applicants from previous years, especially those who were not selected, should consider reapplying. You can find the scholarship application on our website at www.acecwi.com/co-op-programs/scholarships/.



Scholarship Success Story – Mercedes

My name is Mercedes Siegle-Gaither and I was lucky enough to receive the Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative scholarship during my undergraduate career in 2010 and 2012, and during graduate school in 2015. This funding not only helped me pay for my education but also allowed me to study abroad. While going to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, I studied abroad in 2012 for six months at the University of Belize, followed by a study abroad course in Belize in 2013, and then an internship in San Diego for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a summer marine mammal care intern. After receiving my BS in biology in 2014, I received my MS in Forestry from Michigan State University. During my time at MSU I served as the Forestry Graduate School representative, Graduate School Association member, and was a member of the Ecology Society, Foresters, and Xi Sigma Pi National Forestry Honor Society.

After graduation, I worked for the Bureau of Land Management as a cadastral land survey technician, followed by my position as a park ranger in Colorado for six months. While working full-time, my boyfriend and I created our own organization, ConserVANTion. Through our organization, we hold land restoration events, as well as community clean-ups from Colorado to the U.S. We have also presented our work at the Aldo Leopold Foundation Biennial Conference in Wisconsin and introduced Les Stroud (Survivorman) at their fundraiser.

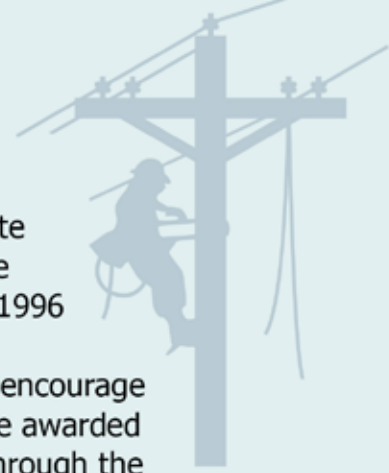
Currently I am working for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture as an urban and community forestry coordinator. My work involves working with government agencies, and schools on grants developing urban and community forestry projects. For work, I also get the opportunity to travel. In my free time, I've also managed to volunteer at the local Humane Society walking dogs, raise about \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and make my dreams become a reality. With the help of scholarships, I not only was given the motivation to succeed, but to believe in myself. Through Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, I know that I have been invested in, and I will do my best to make a positive difference in my community.

Jon Steinhaus Line Worker Scholarship

In 1956, Jon Steinhaus began his career with the former Adams-Marquette Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman. He progressed through the ranks and was named general manager in 1976. Mr. Steinhaus retired in 1996 after 40 years of dedicated cooperative service.

The purpose of the Jon Steinhaus Line Worker Scholarship Program is to encourage men and women to pursue an electric line worker career. Scholarships are awarded annually in the amount of \$1,500. This scholarship is available March 1 through the second Friday in April each year.

Scholarship eligibility includes anyone who is a high school senior (or older). Successful applicants must be enrolled in an Electrical Power Distribution (EPD) program at a certified EPD school in the United States. Although not a requirement, preference is given to members of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative. You can find the scholarship application on our website beginning March 1.



Hotline Safety Demonstrations

Our "Hotline Demo" travels to schools, fire stations, police stations, and more to teach children about the power and danger electricity holds, and our first responders safe techniques for when they encounter dangerous situations involving electricity.

A professional electrical line worker demonstrates what happens when a kite, tree branch, and even a person (demonstrated by a hotdog) touches a line. We combine this demonstration with an educational presentation tailored for students or professionals.

Many times people forget the sheer strength of electricity and this demonstration puts into perspective that electricity is more than flipping a light switch. Call (800) 831-8629 to schedule a Hotline Safety Demonstration.

Mercedes

...c Cooperative Scholarship during my undergraduate
...for an education but helped drive me to dream big.
...e University of Newcastle-Callaghan in Australia,
...S. Navy's National Marine Mammal Care Foundation as
...in forestry from Mississippi State University (MSU).
...ambassador, and president of the Graduate School
...gical Society of America, Society of American

...n in Colorado and Wyoming for six months,
...n environmental conservation 501(c)(3) non-profit,
...U.S. Virgin Islands. We were lucky enough to present
...aiser, after getting him to perform at their conference.

...present job allows me to work with local organizations,
...nity to travel to all three U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the continental United States. While keeping busy with work and
...arch Hospital, and to run 11 marathons in various states from Washington D.C. to California. At the age of 27, I feel that I have
...anything is possible. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for me. Through generous donations such as that from
...the world we live in.



Follow Mercedes on Facebook: www.facebook.com/conserVANtion



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative's

STEM grant

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative values education and training. We understand teachers have limited funding to pursue projects valuable to educating young minds in our local communities. By embracing cooperative principle #5, Education, Training, and Information, we are able to extend our resources to schools to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects and initiatives.


Guidelines:

Funding is available to public, public charter, private and Christian schools in our service area teaching children in grades K-12. The classroom project must be academically focused in the areas of science, technology, engineering or math. The grant may be used to purchase equipment or curriculum materials and should be part of a well-planned and integrated project or activity. Teachers may apply for a STEM grant up to \$500 per project, per academic year.

You can find additional details and the application on our website at www.acecwi.com. For more information, please contact Linda Mohns at lmohns@acecwi.com or (800) 831-8629.



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Customer Service & Billing	800-831-8629
Power Outage Reporting	888-928-2232
Diggers Hotline	800-242-8511

**To make a payment anytime 24/7,
please call 1-844-219-1223.**

Jay A. Porter, PE—CEO
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Friendship Service Center

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Friendship, WI 53934-0070
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:00
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.