



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



WE SALUTE OUR DAIRY FARMERS

By Jay A. Porter, PE,
Chief Executive Officer

June is Dairy Month. It takes a special kind of person to be a farmer. The work is back-breaking and thankless, but without our farmers we would crumble. This month I would like to say thank you to all farmers and especially to our dairy farmers.

Join us at our Member Appreciation Picnic on Friday, June 14, where the local FFA students will be serving up some delicious ice cream as part of the celebration. There will also be food, games, giveaways, and special savings exclusively for our members. We will even have an inflatable bouncy house obstacle course for the kids. There's no need to RSVP—just come to our Friendship office at 401 E Lake Street between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Annual Meeting Recap

I would like to thank all of you who attended the 32nd Annual Meeting. We had great participation in this year's election. This was the second year that we offered eVote, and many of you took advantage of this option, with the majority of our votes coming in online. I appreciate that even though you may not have had time to attend the meeting, you were still active in voting for your board of directors.

There were eight candidates running for three open seats in this election. After all the votes were tallied, the following individuals were elected to the board of directors:

Ethan Olson representing District 2
Aaron Hoernke representing District 3
Jon Ebert representing District 4



Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op's Board of Directors (l-r) Dietrich Vedder – At-Large, Aaron Hoernke – District 3, Cheri Gibeaut – District 6, Karen Fahey – At-Large, Ethan Olson – District 2, Scott Link – District 7, Jon Ebert – District 4, Kendal Nichols – District 5, Gene Alexander – District 1.

I would like to welcome these individuals to Adams-Columbia Electric's Board of Directors.

A reorganizational meeting followed the adjournment of the annual meeting where the following board officers were elected: Cheri Gibeaut, Endeavor, chairman; Dietrich Vedder, Cambria, vice-chairman; Karen Fahey, Pine River, secretary; and Scott Link, Cambria, treasurer.

New Meter Update

Our new meter project has begun. You may see individuals in your yard or neighborhood doing the meter exchanges. We have partnered with a company called Allegiant Utility Services that specializes in large meter exchange projects.

If you see these technicians, don't be alarmed. The Allegiant and ACEC logos will be prominently displayed on their vehicles.



RESP Loan

We have a new loan program that will be launching soon for members to take advantage of—our Rural Energy Saving Program (RESP) loan. Members can apply for RESP loan funds to make measurable energy efficiency upgrades to their home. Examples include appliance upgrades, insulation, windows, and equipment such as heating and cooling systems. Keep an eye out for more information about this program in upcoming issues.

Notice:

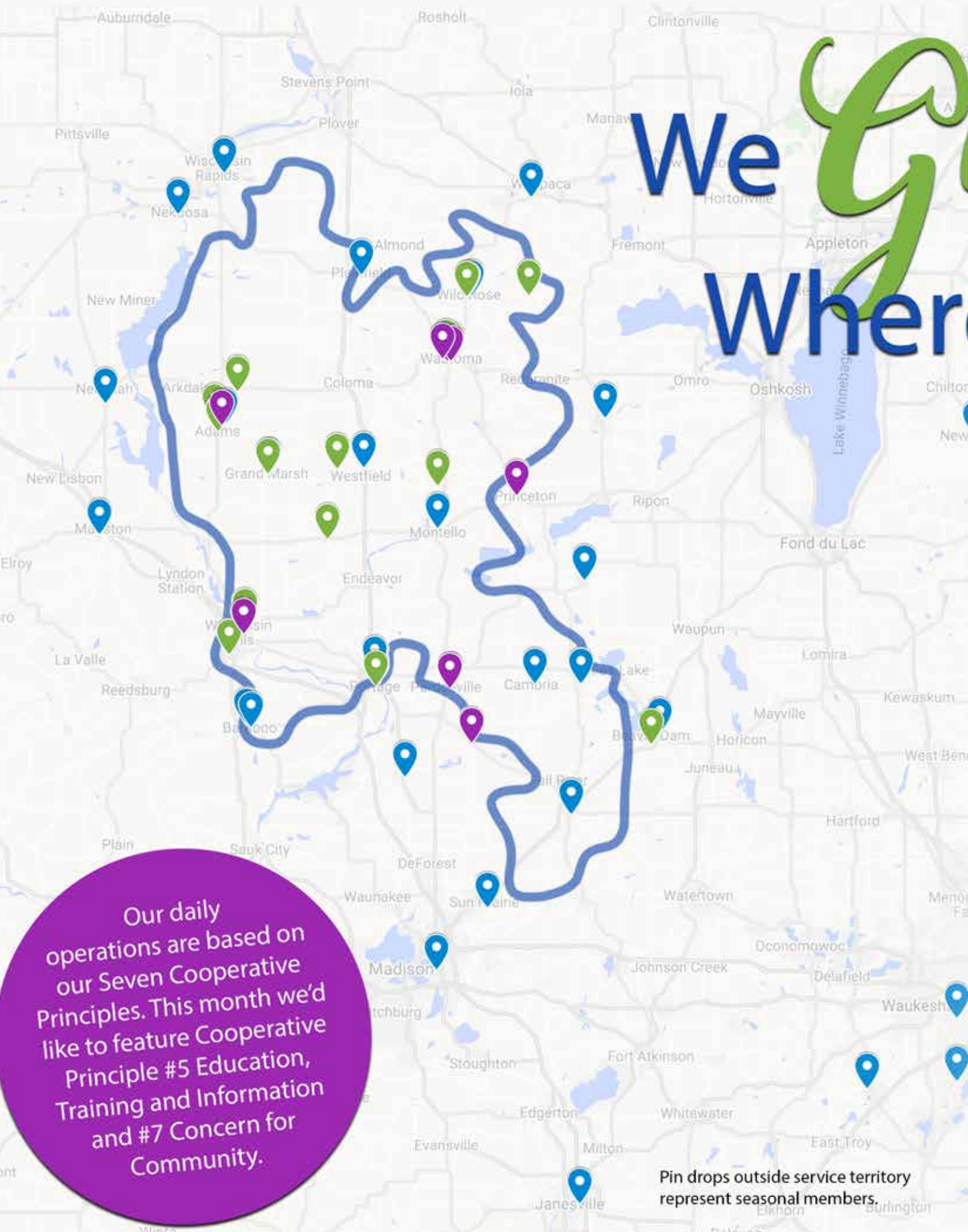
Effective July 1, 2019 ACEC will no longer reconnect electric accounts after hours.

SAFETY MESSAGE



June is National Safety Month, which means now is the time to focus on accident prevention in your everyday life. Take a look around your home and spend a little time on those projects you've been putting off. Repair that loose porch step or replace the burnt-out light bulbs in the basement or garage. The goal of this month is to increase safety awareness and reduce preventable injuries and deaths.

We Go Where



Our daily operations are based on our Seven Cooperative Principles. This month we'd like to feature Cooperative Principle #5 Education, Training and Information, and #7 Concern for Community.

Pin drops outside service territory represent seasonal members.

ive e We Live

Pictured are the first recipients of ACEC's STEM Grant.

Educational Scholarship

This year 75 scholarships for \$1,000 each were awarded to students seeking higher education. Since 1987, ACEC has awarded over 2,128 scholarships totaling over \$1,180,000. The funding for scholarships comes from the *Federated Youth Foundation. Look for photos of the scholarship recipients in the magazine this fall.

STEM Grant

In January we kicked off our STEM grant program. This program allows educators to apply for a grant up to \$500 for their classroom in the field or studies of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The funding for this grant comes from the *Federated Youth Foundation.

*The Federated Youth Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The funds come from unclaimed patronage capital. As stated in ACEC's bylaws, after three years unclaimed patronage capital rolls over into the Federated Youth Foundation. These funds must be used for educational purposes or other charitable options approved by the board.

Operation Round-Up

ACEC members can apply for funds for local projects and charities within our service territory. Examples are emergency assistance following natural disasters, youth programs, civic projects, and more. The funding for this program comes from members who voluntarily "round up" their electric bill and contribute a few cents every month. All funds are maintained separately from Adams-Columbia's operating finances and are overseen by a committee made up of ACEC members from each of our seven districts.





BEWARE OF PHONE SCAMS



Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone, and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them

your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). Adams-Columbia will never ask you to offer up personal finance information over the phone.

- A new scamming technique called “neighbor spoofing” is very popular right now. Con artists are using technology to change what phone numbers are appearing on caller ID—making it look like the call is coming from a local phone number or business. Unfortunately, several members have called letting us know they have received one of these calls. If you are questioning the legitimacy of a call from the co-op, hang up and re-dial 1 (800) 831-8629.
- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of Adams-Columbia who needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, ask for ID or call us to verify the person is, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender, an email riddled with spelling errors and typos, or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

Adams-Columbia wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy.



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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
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

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.