



NEW METER PROJECT UPDATE

By Jay A. Porter, PE,
Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to say that the meter update project is well underway and right on schedule. So far, the installers have been operating at an average pace of approximately 115 meter exchanges per day, slightly more than what we had projected. Weather and more rural locations may slow the pace along the way; however, for now the crews are moving along well. For a variety of operational reasons, we deliberately move the meter exchange crews around our service territory instead of focusing on just one geographic region at a time. While always subject to change, if the current pace continues and things go as planned, it's expected that the Allegiant crew will be in the Cambria area in early August, followed by the Friendship, Coloma, and Richford areas heading into September.



Save the Date

Our fall member appreciation event will be held at Leatherberry Acres. This family-friendly park located in Baraboo will have similar attractions as last year's Fall Fest. Your family will have fun exploring a corn maze, meeting some animals at the petting zoo, climbing a straw bale pyramid, riding a zip line, and of course, launching a pumpkin from the pumpkin cannon! Plan to join us on October 5!

Patronage Retirements

A great advantage of being a co-op member is patronage capital. It's time for retirements! The board of directors has approved \$2.2 million of patronage capital retirements to be returned to members this year. Once again, ACEC is following the first-in, first-out method, retiring the oldest patronage first. Patronage remaining from service in the years of 1999, 2000, and a portion of 2001 will be returned to members. Retirements



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

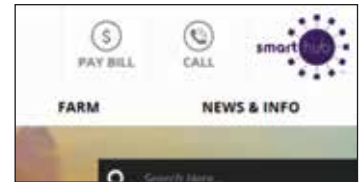
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will mainly be returned as bill credits to members—only retirements of large amounts will be returned as checks. You will see this refund in either August or September.

DOXO

You may have read about DOXO on page 4. This is a reminder that we offer free online payment options right on our website at acecwi.com. Look to the upper right corner for payment options. I recommend SmartHub, which gives you access to great features in addition to bill pay like the usage graphs. Don't pay someone else to pay your bills.



Roadside Pickup

A few times a year, several employees meet after work to do roadside clean up. If you live in the Adams-Friendship area you may see them along Hwy 13 around the Roche-A-Cri State Park. I wanted to highlight these individuals and their dedication to our community.

Member Survey

The second part of our member survey will be conducted in September. You may be contacted via telephone or email. If you are contacted, we would appreciate your feedback on how you think we're doing.

SAFETY MESSAGE



It took a while, but summer has finally found us, and boy is it a hot one! This month I would like to remind you about protecting yourself from the sun's rays. I myself have had a run-in with basal cell carcinoma due to years of unprotected exposure to the sun. As you might have guessed, this spot turned up on the bridge of my nose, as so many of these spots seem to first appear. Since this time, I have had four spots of basal cell removed and lost half of my ear to squamous cell carcinoma. According to the National Cancer Institute, more than 3 million Americans develop skin cancer each year. Please be mindful of your sun exposure—grab a hat and your spf!



The Co-op Difference

What it means to be a member

In the 1930s, electricity was mainly found in cities, but that was just about the only place. Why? Because the companies that provided service knew it would cost too much to serve rural areas. Cities guaranteed lots of customers in one area. Bringing electricity to farmers was just out of the question, which left as many as nine out of 10 rural homes without electricity.

In 1935, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 7037 establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This order drove a program which would lend federal aid to build lines and bring electricity to these rural locations. However, even with the lending program, existing investor-owned electric companies were not interested. Why spend so much money to bring electricity to just a few customers?

Farmers and neighbors in rural areas started holding meetings to see how they could bring electricity to their homes. These people banded together creating, you guessed it, a cooperative! Thanks to these co-ops and the REA funds used to build lines, by 1953, 90 percent of U.S. farms had electricity.

Today, electric co-ops continue with the same values. Our purpose remains to bring our members reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost. When you think cooperatives, we hope you think neighbors, farmers, and friends.

Going the Extra Mile

Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.



Electric Co-ops



Consumers served per mile: **8**
Revenue: **\$19,000**

Other Electric Utilities



Consumers served per mile: **32**
Revenue: **\$79,000**

Sources: EIA, 2017 data. Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

\$AVINGS *for* FARMERS\$

Great money-saving offers from Adams-Columbia and Focus on Energy for our farmers!



Farmers, did you know as a member of Adams-Columbia you have access to money-saving offers from Focus on Energy? The 2019 Agribusiness incentives include:

Variable frequency drives
Variable speed vacuum and milk pumps
Grain dryers

High bay lighting
Enhanced fans
Propane equipment

WISCONSIN



PLUS special money-back offers for taking advantage of multiple incentives.

Questions? Contact Jessica Mlsna - Dairy Energy Specialist at (715) 720-2146 or jessica.mlsna@focusonenergy.com

MY CO-OP

HELP US **STUFF** THE BUS

School Supply Drive

- Notebooks
- Folders
- Filler paper
- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Head phones
- Markers
- Pencil pouches
- Colored pencils
- Watercolors
- Scissors
- Glue sticks



Drop off donations at our Friendship office until August 9th!



PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIREMENTS

What is Patronage Capital?

To answer this, you have to know a bit about co-ops. Co-ops are not for profit organizations that are owned by their members. This means they do not exist to generate profits for a group of investors. As a co-op, ACEC's job is to bring our members reliable power and other services at an affordable cost.

Now, on to Patronage Capital.

This is something that is unique to co-ops. Remember, we are not for profit, so basically, any profit we would make is returned to our members. This is called Patronage Capital. It's what's left of the revenue after all the expenses have been paid at the end of the year. We divide this among all members based on the amount you pay on your bill. Think of it this way, if you use a lot of energy every year - you get a bigger piece of the "patronage pie". This is your Patronage Capital Allocation and you saw this notice on your bill in the spring.

Patronage Capital Retirements.

The next part is the actual refund. Unfortunately, we cannot return the total allocation amount to our members immediately - the co-op would not be able to function. We have to keep some funds on hand for operating expenses and co-op needs, like equipment maintenance and repairs from storm damage.

So how much gets returned?

The Board of Directors evaluates the financial needs of the co-op every year and determines how much patronage can be returned to members. This year the board authorized \$2.2 million for retirements. Most co-ops are on a 20-25 year schedule for retirements. Here's a scenario of how it works: if we're looking at a 20-year schedule and the year is 2020, you would receive a retirement for all the patronage you were allocated in the year 2000. This year ACEC will be returning patronage remaining from the years of 1999, 2000, and a portion of 2001.

Remember - Patronage Capital is yours to keep! Any allocation you receive will be returned to you whether you remain an ACEC member or move off our lines. So, be sure to update your address and keep it current.



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

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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.