



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND OTHER NEWS

By Jay A. Porter,
General Manager

With the holiday season upon us, I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year. Every year my (very large) family gets together to celebrate. I hope you are able to spend time with friends and family and experience the same level of chaos and joy.

Director Retires After 38 years of service on the Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative board, Kendal Nichols retired at the October 30th board meeting stating he would like to spend more time with his family. Kendal served as ACEC board chair for 25 years, and served as a Dairyland director representing the Class B members for 12 years. We thank Kendal for his leadership and dedication to serving our members.

Touchstone Energy After much evaluation, our cooperative has decided to no longer be a member of Touchstone Energy. Touchstone Energy is a resource for co-op advertising. With dues on the rise, we have done an in-depth analysis of the programs offered in the advertising portion of Touchstone. We have found it is in our members' best interest to end our membership. Unfortunately, this means the Co-op Connections Card will come to an end. The trackable information that we have for this program had shown that there has been an 87 percent decrease in our members' use.

Educational Scholarship We will begin accepting applications for Adams-Columbia's educational scholarship on January 2, 2020. We encourage anyone continuing their studies, from newly graduated high schools students to adults continuing their education, to apply for this scholarship. Last year Adams-Columbia awarded 75 individuals with \$1,000 each towards their education. For an application and additional details, please visit www.acecwi.com/co-op-programs/scholarships.

SmartHub App SmartHub has rolled out it's new look. Be sure to download the app, if you haven't already, for easy bill pay, notifications, outage reporting, and more—all at your fingertips.

Rate Evaluation We are looking at the most recent cost-of-service study and are evaluating any rate changes that may be needed. This rate study is done every two to four years to ensure that our rates continue to be fair and equitable to members in all rate classes. You will find more information in future publications as the evaluation progresses.



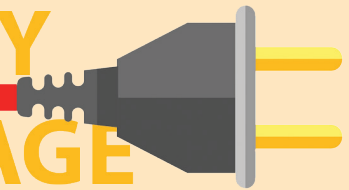
**Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative**

Calendar Our marketing department puts out a calendar every year and we love featuring the photography of our members! Because our contest is traditionally run in the summer, we tend to struggle finding photos for the winter months, so this year we are asking you to submit photos year-round. If you enjoy taking photos, please snap some photos as the seasons change. You can submit them right on our website.

Annual Meeting & Board of Directors The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on May 21, 2020 at the new Pardeeville High School Auditorium. Mark your calendars to join us on that Thursday evening at 6 p.m. There will be three director seats up for election in 2020, district 5, district 7, and an At-Large position. Turn the page to find out more information on how you can run for a director seat.

Survey I want to address some of the comments that we received in our most recent survey. On the following page you can find out more information about the facility charge.

SAFETY MESSAGE

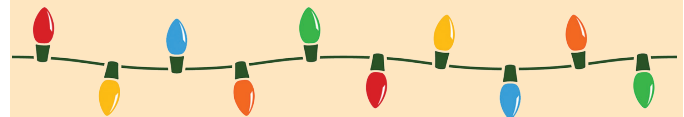


Outdoor Christmas Light Safety

Below are a few safety tips to remember if you're doing outdoor decorating this year.

- Be sure to carefully check cords for cracks, frays, or missing bulbs. Do not use tacks or nails to hang lights; they may pierce cords which could lead to fires.
- Not all lights and extension cords are okay to use outside. Look for these items specifically rated for outdoor use.
- Be sure you're using lights that have a fused plug—newer lights have this function, which prevents sparks in case of short circuit.

Every year we seem to hear of a family losing their home to a fire over the holiday season. My hope is that if we are all a little more cautious, we won't hear of a tragedy like this this year.



YOU should be a DIRECTOR

Have you ever thought about running for Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors? Check out this information on running for the board in 2020.

Who Can Run?

- ▶ District 5
- ▶ District 7
- ▶ At-Large

Bylaws state that there may not be more than two directors from any single district. With an At-Large position coming open, this means that there is an opportunity for a candidate to run in every district. District 7 candidates must run under District 7, not At-Large.

Unsure what district you're in? Give us a call or visit our website to see a district map.

How to Run

▶ 25 Signatures

Collect signatures on a petition - turn it in to the office by 2/21/20.

▶ Biography

Answer a few questions for our magazine and newsletter to help members get to know you and decide who they should vote for.

▶ Speech

Give a short 1-2 minute speech at the Annual Meeting before voting.

Once You're Elected

- ▶ Attend a half day orientation
- ▶ Attend monthly board meetings
- ▶ Training: Credited Cooperative Director

Advantages of Being a Board Member

- ▶ Make important decisions about the co-op
- ▶ 3 year term - no need to run every year
- ▶ Compensation for attending meetings and training
- ▶ Opportunities to attend state & national conferences
- ▶ IRS mileage reimbursement

Interested in running? Email lmohns@acecwi.com or call (608) 339-5401.

MYTH BUSTERS: THE FACILITY CHARGE

What the heck is a facility charge? What does it cover if I'm already paying for the electricity that I use? These are some of the questions that come up so let's break it down and see what it's all about.

What is it? The facility charge ensures electricity actually makes its way to you. In the world of electricity, one small thing can prevent the flow of power. It's easy to think that the power only goes out when there are bad storms. But even on beautiful, sunny days something like an old tree can fall on a line, vermin can destroy materials, or equipment can just stop working, and bam—lights out, no more power.

Wire, poles, transformers, and substations are essential to working electricity, and this stuff is not cheap. AND all these things must be constantly monitored, maintained, and repaired.

Did you know the average cost to install one mile of electrical services is over \$41,000? Simply put, the facility charge makes sure electricity can travel to you and works when you flip a switch.

Why do I still have to pay if I don't use any electricity? Just because a home on our lines is not your primary residence, doesn't mean that you don't want electricity to be available when you're there, right? Those lines and other equipment still need to be in place and maintained 24/7 so that you have power when you do come to stay.

Maybe we can look at this with an analogy. It's kind of the same with TV and internet. If you have a great TV package with a thousand channels and blazing-fast internet, you still have to pay for these services even if you don't use them while you're at work all day. You don't only pay for the times you watch television or use the internet; you pay for a whole month worth of service.

Why is ACEC's facility charge different from another company's facility charge?

Co-ops tend to serve rural communities. One of the wonderful perks of living in a rural area is not being packed in like sardines. However, having neighbors live farther away means fewer people share the cost of system maintenance.

For example, our friends at a neighboring investor-owned utility (IOU) have 474,783 electric customers with 21,900 miles of line in Wisconsin. Here at ACEC, we have 37,323

electric services with 5,311 miles of line. If we do a little simple math, we can see that there are approximately 21 people per mile at the IOU, vs. seven people per mile at ACEC. The facility charge at the IOU is \$15.00 vs ACEC's facility charge of \$32.85. Both the IOU and ACEC has the same amount of equipment per mile—we just have fewer people to share the cost.

How does ACEC's facility charge rate against other electric utilities in Wisconsin?

The two charts below show rate information about electric utilities in Wisconsin. The charts list both IOUs and co-ops. Each chart contains the same information, but it is arranged two ways—by facility charge from low to high, and by average monthly bill from low to high.

Out of 26 utilities, ACEC comes in number 11 both when listed by facility charge costs, and when looking at the average monthly cost of a utility bill. When looking at the average monthly bill chart, you will see that although the IOUs (highlighted in gray) rank lower on the facility charge scale, two of the five have an average monthly bill that is higher than ACEC.

**Two Wisconsin co-ops did not provide information on their rates.*

Average monthly cost based on 1,000 kWh usage.

2019 Rate Comparison (by average monthly bill)

Co-op or IOU	Facility Charge	kWh rate Winter	kWh rate Summer	Avg. Monthly Cost
Rock	\$19.00	\$0.10890	\$0.10890	\$127.90
NWEC (IOU)	\$12.00	\$0.11870	\$0.11870	\$130.70
Alliant (IOU)	\$15.00	\$0.11663	\$0.11663	\$131.63
Barron	\$34.50	\$0.09570	\$0.10570	\$133.53
Xcel (IOU)	\$17.00	\$0.11365	\$0.12518	\$134.49
Oakdale	\$30.00	\$0.10400	\$0.11400	\$136.50
Clark	\$29.00	\$0.10700	\$0.12200	\$138.75
Polk-Burnett	\$36.00	\$0.10100	\$0.11600	\$142.00
Scenic Rivers	\$33.00	\$0.10940	\$0.10940	\$142.40
Chippewa Valley	\$37.00	\$0.10190	\$0.12540	\$144.78
Adams Columbia	\$32.85	\$0.11200	\$0.11200	\$144.85
Dunn	\$35.00	\$0.10640	\$0.12140	\$145.15
St. Croix	\$35.00	\$0.09800	\$0.11200	\$146.13
WE Energies (IOU)	\$16.00	\$0.13111	\$0.13111	\$147.11
Jump River	\$40.90	\$0.10450	\$0.11650	\$148.40
Jackson	\$31.94	\$0.11300	\$0.12800	\$148.69
Eau Claire	\$33.00	\$0.11200	\$0.12800	\$149.00
MG&E (IOU)	\$19.00	\$0.12733	\$0.13850	\$150.05
Vernon	\$37.50	\$0.11100	\$0.12600	\$152.25
Riverland	\$34.98	\$0.11730	\$0.11730	\$152.28
Taylor	\$36.90	\$0.11710	\$0.13210	\$157.75
East Central	\$30.25	\$0.12490	\$0.14380	\$159.88
Pierce-Pepin	\$39.94	\$0.11700	\$0.13300	\$160.94
Bayfield	\$36.00	\$0.12500	\$0.14000	\$164.75
Central Wisconsin	\$33.81	\$0.13710	\$0.13710	\$170.91
Price	\$35.00	\$0.13650	\$0.15500	\$176.13

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Board Meeting Summary September 25, 2019

The regular board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's office in Friendship, WI on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Director Fahey's invocation.

A Safety Message was provided by Director Nichols.

With Chairperson Gibeaut's absence, Vice-Chair Vedder led the meeting; all other directors were in attendance. Following is a summary of the meeting activities.

The agenda, consent agenda items, board expense vouchers, and the minutes of the August 28, 2019, board meeting were approved.

Director Reports: Alexander inquired if a new proposed 150 Mw solar array in Saratoga Township is on ACEC lines, verified by staff not in our service territory. Fahey and Olson expressed positive interactions with members.

Financial Review Committee: The Financial Review was completed by Ebert, Hoernke, and Vedder. The committee felt no further review of the financials was necessary.

Board Action Items:

- Board approved a monthly board meeting summary to be included in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.
- Ebert, Fahey, Vedder, and Porter will attend the WECA Annual Meeting to be held in November.
- Board approved updated polices: #2-32 Board Operational policy, #4-6 ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) Program and #4-8 Culture of Safety.
- Board approved rescinding #6-10 Tool and Equipment Condition as the employee safety manual covers all items.
- Board approved the current members of the Rules Committee, if they are willing to continue to serve for another year.
- Several bylaw items were discussed. A motion to set term limits for five three-year terms for directors failed due to a tie vote.
- Board approved changing the Chief Executive Officer title to General Manager.
- Board approved an additional \$10,000 to the STEM grants for 2019, using Federated Youth Foundation funds, noting the STEM grant program has been very well received in schools across the service territory.

Governance Overview: Several board members will review and apply SMART criteria to Porter's yearly goals. Guest Sarah Bullock, CFC representative, presented the 2018 KRTA (a financial tool: Key Ratio Trend Analysis) data to the board.

Departmental Reports: Monthly financial statements and departmental reports were reviewed.

- Kerska verified that meter pole change outs are not covered in the RESP loan program.
- The electric heat rate changes would be proposed for April 2020; more information will be presented in future meetings.
- Board inquired where the renewables are located on our system; staff will provide information at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Board approved the September meeting minutes on October 30, 2019.

Please note any confidential or sensitive information has been edited for this summary.



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070

Office Hours: Monday – Friday,
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

www.acecwi.com

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—GM
Ashley Miller—Editor

ACEC Board of Directors

District 1

Gene Alexander
Term Expires 2021

District 2

Karen Fahey, Secretary
At-Large
Term Expires 2020

District 2

Ethan Olson
Term Expires 2022

District 3

Aaron Hoernke
Term Expires 2022

District 4

Jon Ebert
Term Expires 2022

District 5

Vacant

District 6

Cheri Gibeaut, Chair
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Dietrich Vedder, Vice Chair
At-Large
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Scott Link, Treasurer
Term Expires 2020