



## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR

By Jay A. Porter, General Manager

Happy New Year, everyone. I hope this month's GM report finds you all well, and that 2020 is a year of health and happiness for you.

**Load Management** You may recall back in July when I announced there would be some upcoming changes to our load management program. I would like to remind you that those changes will be taking place starting April 1.

Our load management equipment is reaching the end of its serviceable life. Due to the cost and time of replacing this equipment in our members' homes, ACEC has decided to end the program. This does not mean that your water heaters or the electric heat units will stop working—it just means that ACEC will no longer be periodically interrupting service to them.

There are a couple of changes that accompany the discontinuation of this program. After April 1, we will no longer be offering free water heater repairs, and the small number of members on heat rates based on the presence of a load control receiver will be switched over to an already existing heat rate. This new rate carries the same monthly facility charge and very similar energy charges through the off-peak hours of the heating season of September through May. Those members who will be experiencing a rate impact will be contacted. There is no action any members must take at this time regarding the upcoming changes.

**Toys for Tots** Thanks to you, our yearly toy drive has once again been a success. Many children in our communities would not experience the joy of the holidays if it were not for your kindness. Thank you for donating to Adams-Columbia's Toys for Tots toy drive. You can find photos of this year's toy drive on the following page.

**Director Nominations** The annual meeting is on the horizon and with that expiring terms for district 5, district 7, and an At-Large position. If you would like to get involved with your cooperative, I urge you to run for the board of directors. It is easy to have your name on the ballot. You need to collect 25 signatures from any member, in any district. You can find additional details on the process on page 17. Please contact us with any questions, and of course, my door is always open if you would like to ask me questions directly. On Thursday, January 16, you can find me at the Wautoma office, N1519 State Rd. 22, from 8–11 a.m., and at the Pardeeville office W6290 State Rd 33, from 1–4 p.m.

**Educational Scholarship** It's time to submit applications for the Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative Educational Scholarship. Last year 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each

were awarded. Did you know you can re-apply every year? So if you've been awarded this scholarship in the past, I urge you to apply again. Visit [www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com) to find out more about the scholarship.

**Approaching Deadlines** Are you on a volunteer fire department that is in need of new equipment? Is your grandchild a member of a 4-H club in need of funding for a project? Operation Round-up can help! Visit our website for more information on qualifications and how to apply for Operation Round-up funding. The deadline to submit an application for this quarter is January 15.

**Attention Teachers:** Our STEM Grant (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) has an upcoming deadline of February 1. We know many teachers have limited funding and we would like to help. Apply for up to \$500 to use in one of these areas. Visit our website for more details.

**Blood Drive** Our Friendship office will play host to the American Red Cross once again. Help us make our second blood drive a success by coming to 401 E Lake Street on Friday, January 10, to donate blood.

## SAFETY MESSAGE



### Space Heater Safety

It's important to know that there are different kinds of space heaters, and some are not meant (or safe) to be used indoors. A combustion space heater (a space heater that burns fuel to run) releases dangerous carbon monoxide fumes. These types of heaters are only meant to be used outdoors. However, indoor-safe electric space heaters still pose a risk of fire. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters.

I also want you to be aware that these little guys can add on some BIG charges to your electric bill. Just one little 1,500-watt space heater used 10 hours a day for a 30-day billing period will add an extra \$50 to your bill!

$$1500 \text{ watts} \times 10 \text{ hours} = 15,000 \times 30 \text{ days} = 450,000 \div 1000 = 450 \text{ kWh used} \\ 450 \text{ kWh} \times \$ .112 = \$50.40 \text{ per month}$$

Visit [www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com) to use our easy energy calculator. You should be able to find the watts printed on a little silver sticker on the back or bottom of the item.

And remember, if you plan on using a space heater, only use it when you're in the room and never set it too close to other objects that could catch fire.

### Adams County



Lisa and helpers with Adams County Angel Tree

### Marquette County



Michele with the Marquette County Human Services

### Waushara County



Gary with The Christmas Project

### Green Lake County



Jennifer and helpers with the Angel Tree

### Sauk County



Deb and helpers with The Children's Giving Tree

**Over 2,300 children helped!**



Adams-Columbia's Toys for Tots Toy Drive partners with several area community leaders that make our efforts a success. This year we want to highlight those individuals and organizations. They have done an amazing job and we are happy to partner with them!

### Columbia & Dodge Counties



Leann with Village of Randolph Gertrude Christian Christmas Fund

### Sauk & Columbia Counties



Lauren and helpers with the Foster Care Program

### Columbia County



Tina with The Giving Tree Project

### Columbia County



Lois with the Cambria Holiday Basket Program

### Columbia & Dodge Counties



Julie with the NICC Foundation

# Run for the Board of Directors

## EASY DIRECTIONS

Are you considering running for Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors? Follow these easy directions. Visit [www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com) for a list of full directions and details.

### 01



#### Do You Live Here?

If you live in one of the districts listed below you can run for your district's director seat.

- District 5
- District 7
- At-Large

### 02



#### How to Run

Nomination by petition. Just collect a total of 25 signatures from ACEC members in any district. One signature per membership. Turn in your petition to the Friendship office by February 21.

### 03



#### Qualifications

Director qualifications are cited in the cooperative's bylaws and a full list can be found on our website.

Here are a few abbreviated key points:

- Be a member in good standing.
- Primary residence located in the district you're running in.
- No financial conflict of interest.
- Not employed by ACEC.
- No felony convictions.

Interested in running? Email [lmohns@acecwi.com](mailto:lmohns@acecwi.com) or call (608) 339-5401 to begin the nomination process.

## Advisory Resolutions & The ACEC Rules Committee

### How to bring your ideas to the co-op

#### What is an Advisory Resolution?

This is a recommendation that you have on a cooperative matter. You can submit your idea as an advisory resolution, which will then be reviewed by the Rules Committee.

#### What is the Advisory Resolution Process?

Submit your advisory resolution by February 21. You will give a brief presentation at the Annual Meeting on your advisory resolution and why you think it is important for the co-op. If the membership approves the resolution it is then brought to the Board of Directors as an advisory resolution for consideration.

#### What is the Rules Committee?

This committee is made up of members of the Advisory Committee and ACEC directors. Their job is to establish rules for the annual meeting and to review and research advisory resolution submissions. Reviewing these submissions requires careful research into both ACEC's bylaws and consulting legal staff.

#### Who can Submit an Advisory Resolution?

Any member can submit an advisory resolution. Please remember, the deadline to submit an advisory resolution to be considered for the 2020 Annual Meeting is February 21, 2020.

For more information visit our website or call (800) 831-8629.



# Board Meeting Summary

October 30, 2019

The regular board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's office in Friendship, WI on Wednesday, October 30, 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 Vedder.

Director Olson was excused; 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 September 25, 2019, board meeting were approved.

**General Manager Report:** Porter noted the Operation Round-Up board meeting was held and the moratorium begins on November 1, 2019.

**Director Reports:** Vedder noted he attended an IEEE event which featured a product called statcoms (static synchronous compensator using no transformer). Vedder demonstrated how reactive power works using his equipment.

Member interaction regarding attachments to ACEC poles, noting safety concerns; no attachments are allowed on ACEC poles.

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

### Board Action Items:

- The next board meeting including the 2020 Workplan/budget to be held on November 26, 2019.
- The 2020 board meeting schedule was reviewed, noting that some months evening board meetings will be held, and the board may meet at either Wautoma or Pardeeville service centers.
- WECA Education and Lobby Days are scheduled for January 28–29, 2020; all directors will attend.
- Board rescinded policies #8-2 Payment/Assignment of Patronage Capital Belonging to Deceased Members, #8-5 Service Provisions for Accounts Temporarily Held in the Name of Deceased Members or Estates, and #8-12 Retirement of Patronage Capital (General Retirement) as these have been consolidated in the new board policy #8-7 Retirement/Assignment of Patronage Capital.
- Board approved the redlined changes to #8–6 Financial Policy and adopted #8–7.
- Board approved extending the Adams County YMCA Project pledge from November 1 to November 30, 2019. (a capital campaign pledge of \$100,000 using FYF funds with naming rights to a room in the Healthy Living Center (YMCA) with a deadline of November 1, 2019, for the project to reach its \$1.3 million fundraising goal)
- Board approved the resolution authorizing the Amendment of the 401(k) Pension Plan and the Retirement Security Plan effective January 1, 2020.
- The board reviewed the 2018 IRS 990 form.
- After lengthy discussion, board approved ACEC's withdrawal from Badger Power Cooperative.
- Nichols announced his retirement from the board.

**Governance Overview:** Several bylaw sections were discussed at length, noting legal clarity for voting and our state statutes. Advisory committee members will be notified no need for a fall meeting as there are no new topics/matters for discussion or their input. WECA annual meeting proposed bylaw changes and districts were discussed.

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

- Gessner noted that any additional costs incurred due to frost or snow are passed on to the member when requesting new services this late in the year.
- Hendricksen presented the historical ATC investment; more discussion at the January 2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

*Board approved the October meeting minutes on November 26, 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](http://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