



By Jay A. Porter,
General Manager

ANNUAL MEETING AND OTHER UPDATES



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

The annual meeting is just around the corner. Have you marked the date on your calendar? Be sure to circle May 21 so you can join us at the Pardeeville High School Auditorium at 6 p.m. On the following pages you will find information about director candidates. This year's meeting finds three seats up for election: District 5, District 7, and an At-Large seat.

Both District 5 and 7 have uncontested races, so the voting lies with the At-Large seat. I welcome Gary Skolarz as our director in District 5 and James S. Kelly as our director for District 7. You can find their bios on page 16c.

The At-Large seat has two candidates, Aaron Bonnett and Karen Fahey. After reading their bios on pages 16d and 16e, I urge you to log into your SmartHub account and cast your vote if you will be unable to attend the annual meeting.

As time progresses, we will continue to monitor the risk and follow suggestions by Governor Evers, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and World Health Organization in regards to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel Coronavirus.

As a cooperative, ensuring the health and safety of our members and employees has always been our top priority. Although the Coronavirus may be different from the severe weather and electrical safety measures we are used to, we still take this risk very seriously and will continue to update our members as always.

Look to our website, Facebook, Twitter, Connections Newsletter, and the pages of this magazine for updated information as the annual meeting date, May 21, approaches.

Bylaw Changes As you may have read, I have asked the Board of Directors to change my title from chief executive officer to general manager. You will find the proposed bylaw changes on page 17.

Control Reminder – Effective April 1 Adams-Columbia will no longer be controlling with the residential load management program. Last year we announced that our load management equipment was reaching the end of its serviceable life. Due to cost and time of replacing the equipment, it was decided the best course of action would be to end the program. As a reminder, this does not mean that your water heater or electric heat unit will stop working; it just means we will no longer be interrupting service to them via the load management program.

Since this program has come to an end, the offer of free water heater repair that accompanied it will no longer be offered. 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 later this year. 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.

Time of Day Time of day peak period will be changing May 1 to 1–8 p.m. On-peak times apply every Monday–Friday, except holidays. Off-peak periods are all other hours.

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 13 is the day we celebrate all of the hard-working individuals who help to keep the lights on. I am especially proud of the men who call ACEC home. You know the saying, when the lights go out, so do they. It takes a special kind of person to work a job requiring you to go out in treacherous weather and work with an unseen force that could kill you. Electricity is something we easily take for granted since it's (usually) always there when we need it. For the last three years ACEC's reliability report shows that our members have had power over 99% of the time—and we have 25 amazing men to thank for that. I hope you'll join me in thanking our linemen this month, specifically on April 13 for Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Attention: During this national emergency our lobby will be temporarily closed. As you've seen across countless sources, it is important to practice social distancing, hand-washing, and disinfecting, so we are doing our part to contribute to these safe practices.

We offer a variety of payment options that you can use from home:

- Call our 24/7 IVR payment number at 1 (844) 219-1223.
- Drop off your payment at one of our drop box locations at our Friendship, Wautoma, and Pardeeville offices.
- Mail-in your payment to ACEC, P.O. Box 70, Friendship, WI 53934.
- Log in to your SmartHub account and click "Make Payment".
- Visit our website and utilize our Pay Now option. All you need is your account number and last name or business name to process a one-time payment.
- Enroll in AutoPay through your SmartHub account.
- Need to contact us?
 - * Reach customer service at (800) 831-8629.
 - * Report a power outage at (888) 928-2232.
 - * Email us at acec@acecwi.com with any inquires, questions, or concerns.

SAFETY MESSAGE



This one will come as no surprise to you! Wash your hands. There is a lot of nasty stuff going around right now, and we want to try to minimize the risk of spreading it as much as possible. It's human nature to touch our faces unconsciously, and that's one of the easiest ways to get sick. Lets all try to be a little mindful and follow the golden rules of the cold and flu season: cover your cough, wash your hands, and stay home if you're sick.

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

MEETING RULES

1. Except as specifically modified below the meeting will be conducted in accordance with ACEC Bylaws, Board Policy #2-18; and the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
3. Only members and duly registered guests will be recognized by the Chair; each person so recognized must give his or her name and show their voting card.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Chair, those recognized are to limit their questions and comments to three minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
5. Questions and comments from members and duly registered guests will be in order during old and new business sessions, and at the conclusion of the officer reports if invited.
6. No resolution affecting Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative may be submitted by any member unless written copies were received by the Cooperative by February 21, 2020, in accordance with the prior notification to the membership to permit review by the Rules Committee, and its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.
7. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the Annual Meeting. Invited Legislators may distribute government issued items such as Highway Maps or similar information. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the Cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the Cooperative supports or opposes any resolution or candidate for director.
8. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

VOTING PROCEDURE

1. Voting will be done by each member holding up his or her card so that the voting card may be seen and counted by the Chair. The Bylaws of the Cooperative require that voting for election of directors must be by ballot vote.
2. Each member will be given a voting card (one card per membership), which the member should hold up to be recognized or to designate his or her vote as directed by the Chair.
3. Once cast, an electronic or absentee vote will not be discarded in favor of another voting method.
4. In the voting for directors, absentee signed ballots and electronic ballots shall not be available in any uncontested races.
5. Only the Chairperson is authorized to vote electronically for a business entity.

FIND
VOTING
OPTIONS ON
PAGE 16d & 16e.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

ANNUAL MEETING 2020



Pardeeville High School Auditorium

120 Oak St, Pardeeville, WI

Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm

Registration Start: 5:15 pm



Board of Directors

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is governed by a board of directors. This board is made up of nine individuals, with one director from each of ACEC’s seven districts, and two At-Large positions. Their job is to represent you. They approve general policies, annual budgets, special contracts, patronage capital retirements, bylaw amendments, rate schedules, and delegating authority to the General Manager for carrying out the daily activities of the cooperative. Cooperatives are unique because, unlike most businesses, you get to vote for who you want to be in charge! Directors are elected for a term of three years. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting every year. If you can’t attend the annual meeting you will find more voting options on page 16d and 16e.

WHAT SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION?

- District 5 - District 7 - At-Large

DIRECTOR BIO’S

Candidates running for these director seats have each been asked to submit a short, 350 word or less, biography answering the questions listed below. Candidates have provided their contact information if you would like to reach out with additional questions.

*Note that no edits have been made to the candidate’s submissions.

Each candidate was asked the following questions:

- » Please share information about yourself including what experience or abilities you would bring to the ACEC board.
- » What interests you most about serving on the board?
- » What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on in the next few years?

WHO’S RUNNING?

There are 4 candidates running this year. This means two seats have no challengers, or are uncontested races. The only vote you will be casting this year for is the At-Large seat.



District 5 - Uncontested
Meet Gary Skolarz
Read his bio on page 16c.



District 7 - Uncontested
Meet James S. Kelly
Read his bio on page 16c.



At-Large
Aaron Bonnett vs Karen Fahey
Each of their bios can be found on page 16d & 16e.

DISTRICT 5 - UNCONTESTED

Meet Gary Skolarz

608-586-6588

skolarz@maqs.net



Please share information about yourself including what experience or abilities you would bring to the ACEC board?

My wife Kristen and I currently live in Jackson Township in Adams County. I retired from the Marquette County Sheriff's Office after 32 years as a Deputy Sheriff. During that time, I worked with people in our rural areas, and have established many connections with our rural communities.

I led the Marquette County Youth Organization Association (Fair Board) for 8 years serving as both President and Vice President during my tenure. The biggest thing I learned was that every part of the fair is important to someone. This taught me the importance of every facet of a community being represented.

I served also on the Board of Directors for the Marquette County Chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

What interests you most about serving on the board?

I have always been supportive of, and involved in my community. I am interested to learn more about the electric power industry and more specifically Adams Columbia Electric Cooperative.

What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on in the next few years?

As I learn more about what the issues are, I will better understand how priorities need to be aligned. As with any organization what's most important is identifying that which will benefit the greater good, and support the mission of the organization.

DISTRICT 7 - UNCONTESTED

Meet James S. Kelly

(608) 658-9031

mintonkip@yahoo.com



Please share information about yourself including what experience or abilities you would bring to the ACEC board?

I served as the Finance Director of the Madison Water Utility for 27 years. I was active in the American Water Works Association and was chair of the Accounts and Finance Committee. I'm also a member of the Wisconsin Water Association and chaired the organization. During that time, I established liaison committees with the Wisconsin DNR, and Public Service Commission.

What interests you most about serving on the board?

80 years ago, rural power could have been an oddity or even a luxury. Time has proven that electricity is an integral part of our culture. Just as the experience I had with the water industry, electric power has got to be there 24/7. I enjoyed dealing with the challenges in a utility environment. The Cooperative model presents a unique way to handle these challenges in delivering services to our members. I look forward to serving on the Board.

What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on in the next few years?

The electric industry as a whole will face issues of transitioning to using more clean energy. Adams Columbia will be facing environmental issues as well as infrastructure expansion and replacement. Cyber security has become a real issue in recent years. With many of these issues state and federal policies and regulations will have an impact on our operations.

AT-LARGE - CAST YOUR VOTE

Aaron Bonnett

(715) 347-1415

aaronjbonnett@gmail.com



Please share information about yourself including what experience or abilities you would bring to the ACEC board?

I currently work for Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics as the Executive Director of Moundview Memorial Healthcare Foundation. I have a bachelor's degree in business management from Ripon College and a master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I am also proud to be a sixth generation of a family farm located in Adams County. I hope that my background in business management can be an asset to the ACEC board.

What interests you most about serving on the board?

I am looking forward to the opportunity to represent the member-owners of ACEC. We are very fortunate to be part of a cooperative and I hope we can continue to maximize its potential.

What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on in the next few years?

I believe it is important to be fiscally responsible and represent the best interests of our member-owners. We must focus on the balance to continue to provide high quality service while maintaining affordable pricing. I also think that it is important to do strategic planning to ensure that ACEC continues to grow and develop to maintain its status as a very viable service for our communities.

Ways to VOTE

1

IN PERSON AT THE MEETING

Pardeeville High School Auditorium
120 Oak St, Pardeeville, WI
Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm
Registration Start: 5:15 pm

2

REQUEST

Contact

AT-LARGE - CAST YOUR VOTE

Karen Fahey

(920) 987-5205

silverbell777@centurytel.net



Please share information about yourself including what experience or abilities you would bring to the ACEC board.

Before my six and a half years on the ACEC Board, I spent nine years on the board of Habitat for Humanity as well as several terms serving on our church council. For six years I also coordinated meals for the needy working with churches and other civic organizations in Waushara County. My early career included a time working in a management position at Wisconsin Electric Power Company which is now WE Energies, an investor-owned utility based in Milwaukee. I was a self-employed Christmas tree grower and orchardist for over 30 years, and I was involved in and self-employed in real estate development and residential home construction. I bring a wealth of real world experience and common sense to the ACEC Board, and I very well understand the dynamics of and the art of working toward a common goal on a board of directors.

What interests you most about serving on the board?

My main interest is service to others. I am confident that I can continue playing a significant role in operating ACEC as the large and successful organization that it is while serving our members with compassion and fairmindedness realizing that our members are the owners of the cooperative. I also enjoy and am empowered by my association with my fellow board members and those serving on other cooperatives' boards.

What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on in the next few years?

An issue that is always of great importance to the ACEC Board is good communication with our member-owners, and we need to continue to assure our members that ACEC is and will continue to be their trusted energy resource. Using sound business practices as we have always done, we must continue to operate ACEC keeping our members' best interests in mind while keeping an open mind regarding emerging technologies. A challenge might be to enter into something new and exciting without doing the necessary study to determine its feasibility, worthiness and validity. ACEC is in an enviable position of respect among other electric cooperatives. All the while monitoring advances in new technologies, we need to remain faithful to what has brought us to this place in our industry.

AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Linda M at (608) 339-5401.

3

ONLINE WITH EVOTE

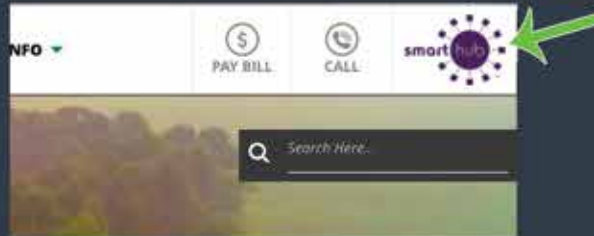
Log in to your SmartHub account and vote starting April 1.

Can't make it to the annual meeting? Follow these easy steps to cast your vote online with eVote.



STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

1 SMARTHUB Visit acecwi.com and click SmartHub in the upper right corner.



2 LOG IN OR create an account. One of our CSR's can help. Call (800) 831-8629.



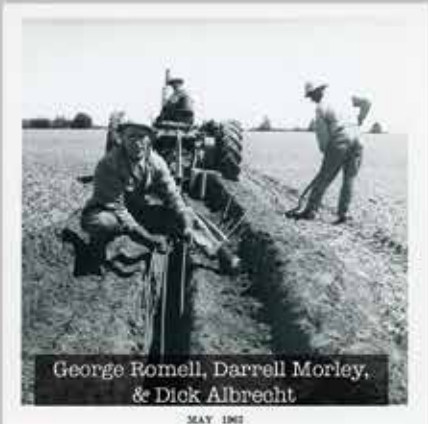
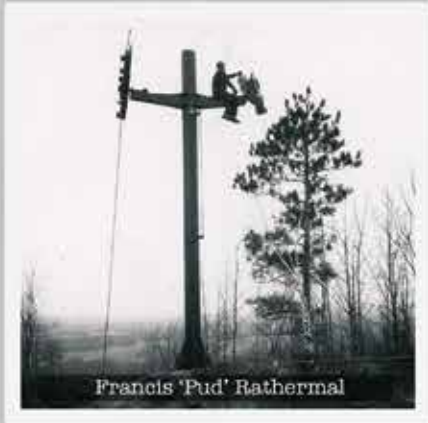
3 VOTE NOW Click 'Vote Now' in the upper right corner.



4 SELECTIONS Click a box to vote.



There
for
you
then,
here
for
you
now!



Lineman
Appreciation
Day April 13



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: APPLIANCE RECYCLING!

10AM-2PM
FRIENDSHIP - JUNE 5
WAUTOMA - JUNE 12
PARDEEVILLE - JUNE 19

LIMIT OF 5 ITEMS
INCLUDING 1 TV OR
MONITOR PER
MEMBERSHIP



Exclusively for Adams-Columbia members!

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Pardeeville High School. At the meeting, members will be asked to approve several proposed changes to the cooperative's Bylaws. These proposed changes are the result of your Board of Directors' review of the cooperative's Bylaws, in order to keep current with best practices identified in our ever-changing cooperative industry.

Both this summary of changes and the complete Bylaws are available on our website at www.acecwi.com.

Quorum for Member Meetings

To make it easier for the Cooperative to convene member meetings, it is proposed that the quorum be reduced from 50 to 35 members. The text of the proposed amendment follows.¹

Amend Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws ("Quorum") as follows:

The number of members to constitute a quorum at a meeting of members shall be thirty-five (35) ~~thirty-five (35) fifty (50)~~. . In case of a joint membership, or a membership held by tenants in common, the presence at a meeting by either joint member or both, or by one of the tenants in common, shall be regarded as the presence of one member. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting, provided a new notice is mailed to each member specifying the time and place of the adjourned meeting.

Clarification of Voting in Uncontested Races

It is proposed that the absentee voting provision be clarified to make clear that absentee ballots are not provided in uncontested director elections.

Amend Article III, Section 6(e) of the Bylaws ("Voting by Absentee Signed or Electronic Ballot") as follows:

If ballots for use in voting for director are not provided members along with the notice of the meeting, in any race in which there is more than one qualified nominee a member may request a

ballot from the Cooperative in such manner as the Board of Directors may specify, and use the same for voting for director in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Change of Position Title

It is proposed to change the title of the Cooperative's chief executive back to general manager, the traditional title for the position. This affects references to the position in several sections of the Bylaws.

Amend the Bylaws at Article III, Section 1 ("Annual Meeting"), Article III, Section 9 ("Rules Committee"), Article VI, Section 8 ("Chief Executive Officer"), and Article XI, Section 2 ("Membership in Other Organizations") by changing all reference to "chief executive officer" or "Chief Executive Officer" to read instead "general manager".

Elimination of Executive Committee

Current Bylaw authorizes an Executive Committee appointed by the Board to act on behalf of the Board between meetings. While the Executive Committee has rarely been called upon to exercise this authority, in order to reinforce the importance of decisions being made by the full Board it is proposed to rescind in its entirety the provision creating the Executive Committee.

Amend the Bylaws by rescinding Article VI, Section 11 ("Executive Committee") in its entirety.

¹Additions shown by underlining; deletions are shown by strike through.



Board Meeting Summary

January 29, 2020

The monthly board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's office in Pardeeville, WI on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Director Olson's invocation. A Safety Message was provided by Director Fahey.

All directors were in attendance. The agenda was approved as sent. Following is a summary of the meeting activities.

The agenda, consent agenda items, board expense vouchers and the minutes of the December 30, 2019 regular board meeting minutes were approved.

Director Reports: Fahey volunteered to conduct the board self-assessment process. Olson was contacted by a member regarding control times; staff will contact member.

General Manager Report: Porter congratulated Gibeaut for receiving NRECA Gold Training Certification. Porter also shared that ACEC's right-of-way (ROW) form was recently reviewed by our WECA representative, noting it was satisfactory to accommodate communication for our equipment.

Financial Review Committee: The Financial Review was completed by Alexander, Fahey and Olson, noting no further review of the financials necessary.

Board Action Items:

- The next board meeting will be Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the Friendship office.
- Board approved the board policy review of #2-2 Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News, #2-6 Directors & Employees 24-hour Accident Plan, and #2-7 Youth Leadership Congress.
- Board approved the resolution of appreciation for retiring Operation Round-Up board members Ginny Joyce and Sue Wohlfert, both having served 22 years.

Departmental Reports: Monthly financial statements and departmental reports were reviewed. Advisory Member Committee evening meetings will be scheduled for the week of April 14–16, 2020.

Finance managers, West and Hendricksen facilitated a lengthy discussion on our ATC investment including historical and future projections. Board's consensus that no more capital call investments will be made.

The cost of the *WECN* (statewide magazine) was discussed. Porter noted other cooperatives create their own newsletter in-house and Member Services will evaluate this possible option.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Board approved the January meeting minutes on February 26, 2020. 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 Hoerneke
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