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WISCONSIN  
**ENERGY**  
*Cooperative*  
May 2020 NEWS

**ANNUAL MEETING ISSUE**



**THIS YEAR'S  
ANNUAL MEETING  
IS GOING DIGITAL!**

More information on page 16c

# Annual Report

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# Notice of the 2020 Annual Meeting

## Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative May 21, 2020

THE STATE'S CURRENT EMERGENCY ORDERS PROHIBIT IN-PERSON MEETINGS THROUGH MAY 26. THAT MEANS MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MAY 21 ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON. THE COOPERATIVE PLANS TO "LIVE STREAM" THE MEETING ON FACEBOOK, SO MEMBERS HAVE A SAFE WAY TO "ATTEND". (YOU WILL NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO ACCESS THE LIVE STREAM.) MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND IN THIS PUBLICATION AND ON THE COOPERATIVE'S WEBSITE. THIS IS A VERY FLUID SITUATION, SO PLEASE WATCH FOR FURTHER UPDATES. THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION!

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the members of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative will be held at the Friendship Headquarters, located at 401 E. Lake St., Friendship, Wisconsin on Thursday, May 21, 2020, beginning at 5:00 p.m. In the interest of public health and safety, the meeting will be "live streamed". Details on how to access the live stream can be found in this publication and on the Cooperative's website. Please watch for updates closer to the meeting date.

Action will be taken on the following items of business:

1. The election of three directors for three-year terms: one each from Districts 5, 7, and At-Large to succeed the present directors from said districts whose terms expire at this meeting.

District 5:	Vacant
District 7:	Scott Link
At-Large:	Karen Fahey

2. Reports on cooperative operations.
3. Such other business, special or regular, as may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2020



Karen Fahey, Secretary



Adams-Columbia  
Electric Cooperative

## 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE May 21, 2020

### 5 p.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

NATIONAL ANTHEM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

SAFETY MESSAGE

NOTICE OF MEETING AND  
PROOF OF MAILING

DIRECTOR INTRODUCTIONS

ELECTION RESULTS

ADJOURNMENT

# ADAMS-COLUMBIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## May 11, 2019

The 32nd Annual Meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held at the Adams-Friendship Fine Arts Center in Adams on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Board Chairman Lawrence Becker called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The members and guests sang the National Anthem and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-Chairman Cheri Gibeaut gave the Invocation. Jon Gessner, Manager of Operations and Safety, presented the safety message video on awareness of power lines.

There were 71 voting members registered at the commencement of the meeting, plus 165 absentee ballots and 617 electronic votes using Survey & Ballot Systems.

Board secretary Karen Fahey read the Affidavit of Notice of Annual Meeting and Proof of Mailing.

Motion made, seconded and carried unanimously, the members approved the 2018 Abbreviated Annual Meeting Minutes as printed in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Magazine's (WEC News)* May 2019 edition.

The current board of directors were introduced. Current and former employees, former directors, Operation Round-Up board members, the Advisory Committee members and the Rules Committee members were recognized. Becker also introduced the invited guests in attendance: Steve Freese, WECA; Brian Hood, Alliant Energy; Tony Bartels, IBEW Local 965; and Jerry Schneider, Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative.

The meeting was turned over to Attorney Niles Berman of Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, who represents Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative in a legal capacity, to handle the director election process.

Attorney Berman introduced the eight appointed tellers and explained the voting procedure to the members. Each candidate introduced themselves to the membership: District 2: Patrick Connolly, incumbent, and Adam Jones and Ethan Olson, challengers; District 3: Marjorie Colby, incumbent, and Aaron Hoernke, challenger; and District #4: Lawrence Becker, incumbent, and John Church and Jon Ebert, challengers. The election of directors was held. Voting electronically was the majority of ballots that were cast in the election. The total count was 74 members in person at the meeting, 165 absentee ballots, and 617 were online through Survey & Ballot System's evote. Election results: Olson was elected to District 2, Hoernke was elected to District 3, and Ebert elected to District 4. The elected directors' terms expire at the annual meeting in 2022. Berman noted the cooperative democratic process and thanked the membership for their involvement in the election.

Jay Porter, CEO, presented the 2018 Year in Review to the membership, highlighting ACEC's investment in Alliant's Combined Cycle Riverside Energy Center, the newly completed Springwater Substation, the new metering project, and the fiber installation to our offices in cooperation with Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative. ACEC returned \$2.4 million in patronage capital retirements during 2018. Porter also noted no rate increase was necessary in 2018 and there will not be one in 2019 either. The Member Appreciation Event will be held on June 14, 2019, and members can see the newly remodeled Friendship office.

There was no Unfinished Business from last year's meeting.

In New Business, Attorney Berman reviewed the proposed Bylaw changes with the members: 1) clarified that a membership is not terminated when an account receives no electrical energy from the cooperative, so long as bill-payment continues for the cost of having service in place; 2) eliminated the option of withdrawing an absentee ballot cast by mail and substituting a ballot cast in person at the annual meeting; and 3) specified that at the board's discretion, capital credits can be retired early when someone leaves co-op membership, provided the cooperative's financial condition would remain unimpaired. Motion made, seconded and carried unanimously, the membership approved the bylaw changes.

Becker asked if there was any other new business to come before the membership, nothing was brought forth.

A question and answer session was offered to the membership. Several members presented questions relating to: with new metering technology, members are still asked to call in outages; unless public opinion changes, nuclear plants will not be considered a safe alternative to solar and wind; and ACEC is maintaining a slow growth of new accounts/memberships.

In closing, Becker congratulated the new board members: Ebert, Hoernke, and Olson on their election.

The membership thanked the outgoing board members, Becker, Colby and Connolly, for their combined years of service to the cooperative.

Becker announced Stella Fowler as the grand prize package winner and thanked the membership for attending their cooperative's annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.



Karen Fahey, Secretary

# Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

## MEETING RULES

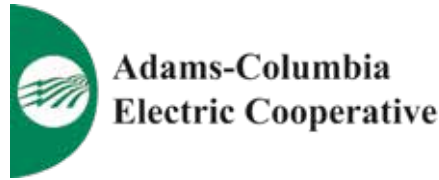
1. Except as specifically modified below the meeting will be conducted in accordance with ACEC Bylaws, Board Policy #2-18, and the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
3. Only members and duly registered guests will be recognized 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.



Jay Porter  
General Manager



# 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING COOPERATIVE ANNUAL REPORT



Cheri Gibeaut  
Board Chair

Hello everyone,

Cheri and I wanted to start our joint-report with an important message of hope and prayer for all those who have been affected by COVID-19. We're very aware and empathic to everyone that's been affected, especially for those who have been afflicted by the virus. We sympathize with all of our members that have suffered financially during this crisis. We pray none of you have suffered the loss of a loved one. We are living through tough and scary times right now, which will undoubtedly be written about in history books to come.

We hope it brings you some comfort to know that Adams-Columbia will be here for you. All of our employees are working to ensure your electric service remains the same reliable source you've always known. We'll do everything in our power to keep the lights on for you.

## Financials

**A Good Year for the Co-op** Every year a team of auditors joins us for a few days and pours over our financials. We are pleased to say the team found no areas of concern and deemed this a good fiscal year for Adams-Columbia. Kilowatt-hour sales in 2019 decreased by 2.8 percent from the prior year, primarily due to weather. Operating expenses, excluding the cost of purchased power, decreased by \$400,000 from the prior year. The most significant portion of the decrease continues to be due to the aggressive right-of-way maintenance program, efficient crews, and continual rotation of service area clearing. The interest rates in recent years have been very favorable for long-term lending, and this is reflected by decreased interest expense. The cooperative was also able to dedicate more internal resources to the installation of the new metering system, which reduced overall operational expenses.

**Patronage Capital Allocations** The Board of Directors has authorized the allocation of over \$6.6 million in patronage capital. After expenses have been paid, any funds remaining—called margins—are allocated to you. You will see this notice on your May bill. Not all of these funds can be returned to you immediately—a portion must be held for operating expenses and system improvements. Late this summer, the board will determine how much is returned to members as patronage capital retirements. In 2019, Adams-Columbia returned \$2.2 million in general retirements to members.

## Operations

**No Major Storms in 2019** We are happy to report that there were no major storms in our service territory last year. Some of our neighboring co-ops were not so lucky. Cooperatives around the world think of themselves as part of one big family, and we always help each other in times of need. We have a special program called R.O.P.E.: Restoration of Power in an Emergency. This year we sent line crews to Oconto Electric Cooperative, Rock Energy Cooperative, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, and Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, where some of their members were without power for a full week or even longer following storms. Our linemen are always willing to help!

**New Meter Project** At the time this was written, the exchange process is just over 70% complete, with 28,700 meters exchanged and approximately 10,500 left to go. Barring any extreme weather events or COVID-19 related delays, we're still on target for a fall 2020 completion, which is slightly ahead of schedule. Installers are currently in the Wild Rose (Waushara County) area, after which they'll move to an area including southwestern and south-central Adams County, moving west to east towards Marquette County. This next area of progress will start along Castle Rock Lake and end east of I-39 and will consume the balance of this spring and the bulk of the summer months.

## Scholarships & Grants

**Hundreds of Students Helped** For the last 33 years, Adams-Columbia has been awarding scholarships to members and their children, totaling \$1,183,500! In 2019, we awarded 75 hard-working individuals scholarships of \$1,000 each to further their education.

**New Grant for Teachers** In 2019, we introduced our S.T.E.M. grant. We know it's especially hard for our educators to find funding for their classrooms, so this grant is for teachers! It awards up to \$500 each year for teachers with the emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in their classes. Since January of 2019, we have been able to help 31 teachers in our service territory!

## West Riverside Project

There has been a slight hiccup in plans with getting this facility off the ground. Construction was completed ahead of schedule, but test runs identified some issues. Workers are now dedicating their time to fix these issues and get the facility up and running by the time this article goes to press. They will use the month of May to work out any bugs and “fine-tune” the combustion turbines, the steam turbine, their respective generators, and all the associated systems to be ready for the summer. Alliant has chosen a contractor to begin the construction of the solar array and expect it to be completed late this fall.

## Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative Partnership

We have been working with Marquette-Adams to extend fiber optic cable to our offices and those substations where we can economically reach. Through this partnership and other providers, all three of our offices and more than 60% of our substations are now served with fiber. This improvement enables more efficient use of our technologies and business software applications and removes limitations for future technology and data advancements. Our partnership has also allowed us, together, to apply for broadband grants. We hope to receive one in 2020 to assist with the extension of fiber from our Pardeeville office east to our Cambria and Friesland Substations. This would also allow Marquette-Adams to extend their services to our members and others adjacent to this route.

## Solar and Battery Storage Opportunities

We worked with a few vendors to explore solar array options and one vendor that sold large-scale battery storage systems. Through both efforts, we learned a lot about pricing and the current state of each of these technologies. Each has its positive attributes, and of course, challenges. To move forward with a solar array at Adams-Columbia, we need to compare the cost of these things to that of our average cost of energy. With the costs of solar panels and battery storage trending downward and the technology of each improving, we decided not to move forward this year. However, we will continue to evaluate solar options annually. We have signed an intention to participate agreement with Alliant Energy on their next large-scale solar project, similar to the one we agreed to on the West Riverside Project.

## Lobby Closed

Safety continues to be a top priority for ACEC. This year’s COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted everyone’s lives and requires us all to practice the safety precautions that the Center for Disease Control issued in March. For your safety and the safety of our employees, we have closed our lobby and restricted access to all vendors in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. We hope we can resume regular business in the near future, but also realize that we will all operate a little differently now.

## Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we certainly hope that we conquer COVID-19, develop a vaccine that prevents it ever returning, and that our members’ lives can improve.

We’ll continue to implement the new metering program, anticipate the commercial operation of Riverside, and continue to seek and evaluate options for our members.

The Board of Directors will be participating in their next Strategic Planning process in June to determine our strategic direction for the coming years.

## In Closing

The goal of any cooperative is to improve the lives of its members. Our goal at Adams-Columbia is to do that by not only bringing safe, reliable electricity to our members, but by also being your trusted energy source and being involved in the communities we serve. Through programs like Operation Round-Up, S.T.E.M. grant, Federated Youth Foundation scholarships, and our annual school supply and holiday toy drives, we hope you think of us as more than just the electric provider. Again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Without your continued participation and support, success at Adams-Columbia would not be possible.

It is with the greatest hope that the pandemic ends soon, and we can all begin again to adjust to what will certainly be a new beginning and ways needed to prevent this from happening again. Take care, and God bless.



## The Annual Meeting’s Going Digital

We hope that you’ve read through our joint report and will join us on Facebook Live for the annual meeting. A digital meeting will be a first for all of us, but we will do our best to make it as easy as possible. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch. Simply type [www.facebook.com/ACECWI](http://www.facebook.com/ACECWI) into your web browser and look for the video. A prompt may pop up asking you to log in or create an account, but there is a “Not Now” option at the bottom to click.

We will also be sending out an email with a link to the live video five minutes before the meeting begins. If you are not already registered for SmartHub to receive these emails, you can sign up by calling (800) 831-8629 or by visiting our website.

SmartHub is also a great, easy way to vote for the director candidates. Just log in and click the ‘Vote Now’ button in the upper right corner. You can vote up to the day before the meeting, May 20, at noon.

We hope you can join us live on Facebook on Thursday, May 21 at 5 p.m.

# ACEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



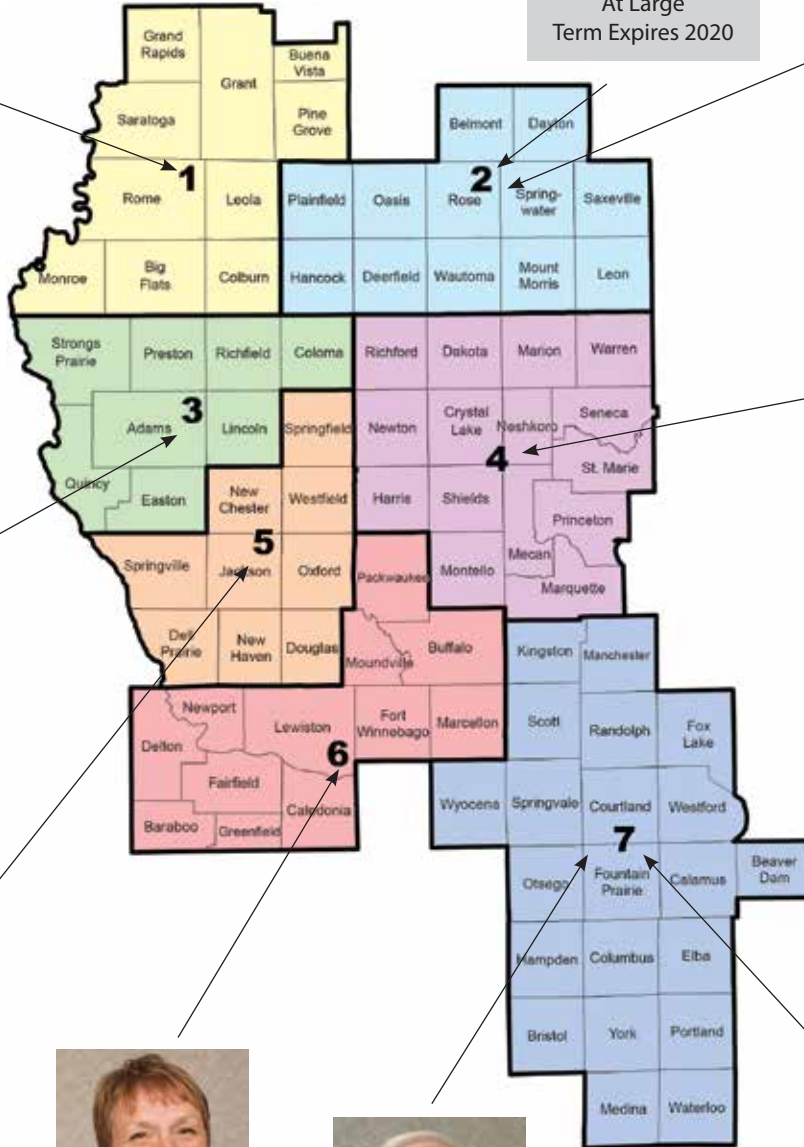
**District 1**  
Gene Alexander  
Term Expires 2021



**District 2**  
Karen Fahey  
At Large  
Term Expires 2020



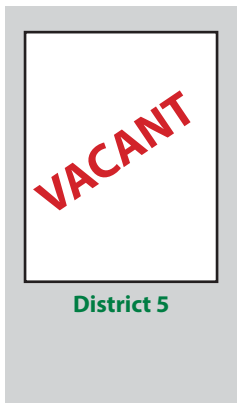
**District 2**  
Ethan Olson  
Term Expires 2022



**District 3**  
Aaron Hoerneke  
Term Expires 2022



**District 4**  
Jon Ebert  
Term Expires 2022



**District 5**



**District 6**  
Cheri Gibeaut  
Term Expires 2021



**District 7**  
Dietrich Vedder  
At Large  
Term Expires 2021



**District 7**  
Scott Link  
Term Expires 2020



# The annual meeting is going **DIGITAL**

What does that mean? Well, with Governor Evers' Safer at Home order, we have decided the best and safest action for our members is to take this meeting online.

So the question is, how will this be different from the meeting that Adams-Columbia's members are used to? There are three main differences, and we will explain them below.

1. The first and most obvious difference is the meeting will not be in person. We will have a camera set up in our conference room here at Adams-Columbia and broadcast the meeting live to you. We will be using Facebook Live where you can watch in real-time with us, or you can catch the recording later. You DO NOT need a Facebook account to watch. Simply type <http://facebook.com/ACECWI> into your web browser and look for the video. There may be a pop-up asking you to log in or create an account, but you can choose the "Not Now" option at the bottom of the pop-up.
2. There will be no voting at the meeting. This one may seem like a given since you won't be able to attend in person.



In order to vote for your board of directors, you have two options:

- \* Option 1: eVote via your SmartHub account. You can find eVote directions starting on the bottom of page 16f. You may vote until noon on Wednesday, May 20.
  - \* Option 2: Vote via absentee ballot. A ballot can be requested by contacting Linda M. at (608) 339-5401. These ballots must be received in our office by noon on Wednesday, May 20, to be counted.
3. Proposed bylaw changes will be postponed until next year's meeting. These changes are voted on by the members who attend the meeting so they have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

**Help us stop the spread of COVID-19 by tuning in online for this year's annual meeting on Thursday, May 21 at 5 p.m.**

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jay Porter, General Manager of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, Office of Civil rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating

based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)<<mailto:program.intake@usda.gov>>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# 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.

## WHAT SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION?

- District 5 - District 7 - At-Large

## DIRECTOR BIOS

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 four candidates running this year. This means two seats have no challengers, or are uncontested races.



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



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



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

## 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.

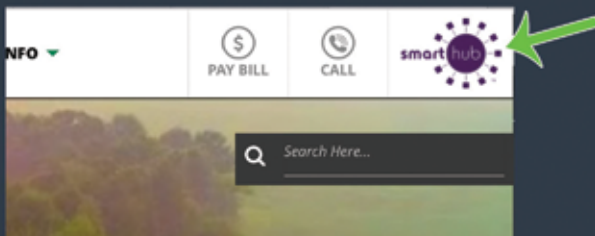
**What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on in the next few years?**

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.

**EASY**

# e✓vote Directions

**1 SMARTHUB** Visit [acecwi.com](http://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.



# 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?**

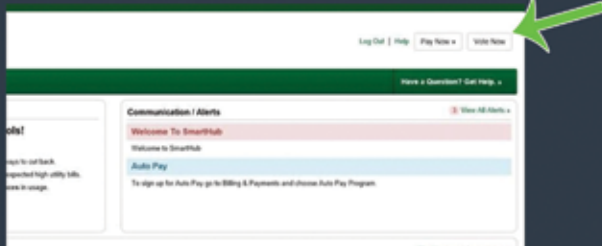
My main interest is service to others. I am confident that I can continue playing a significant role in operating ACEC as the large and successful organization that it is while serving our members with compassion and fairmindedness realizing that our members are the owners of the cooperative. I also 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.

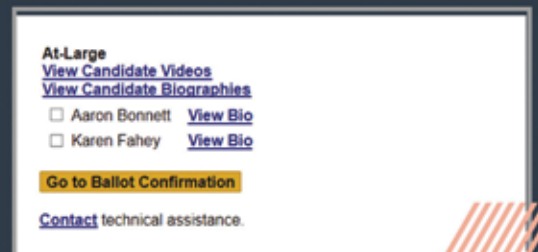
3

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



4

**SELECTIONS** Click a box to vote.

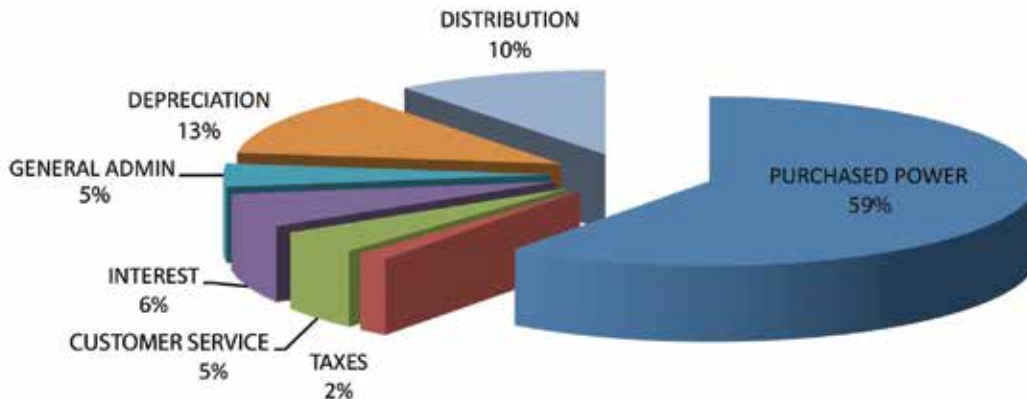
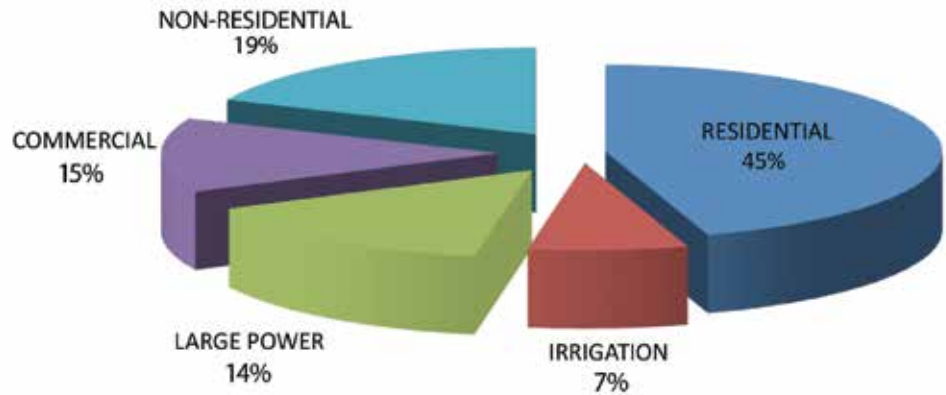




# 2019 Statement of Operations

	2019	2018
<b>WHAT WE TOOK IN</b>		
Operating Revenue	69,781,269	70,442,900
<b>WHAT WE PAID OUT</b>		
Cost of Purchased Power	38,133,342	38,680,109
Distribution Expense	6,517,401	6,789,258
Customer Service & Sales Expense	2,941,043	2,890,047
Administrative & General Expense	2,877,631	2,876,659
Depreciation Expense	8,608,216	7,915,321
Taxes	1,009,295	1,015,130
Interest on Long-Term Debt	4,092,580	4,155,489
Total Operating Expenses	64,179,508	64,322,013
<b>WHAT WE HAVE LEFT</b>		
Net Operating Margins	5,601,761	6,120,887
Interest Income	365,176	339,810
Non-Operating Income	1,218,057	1,519,547
Patronage Capital	668,185	567,985
Net Margins	<u>7,853,179</u>	<u>8,548,229</u>

## 2019 Revenue by Category



## 2019 Expense by Category

# 2019 Balance Sheet

## ASSETS

	2019	2018
Total Utility Plant	237,417,022	226,892,014
Less Accumulated Depreciation	76,364,238	73,264,573
<b>NET UTILITY PLANT</b>	161,052,784	153,627,441
Investments in Associated Organizations	25,225,552	24,099,836
Investments in Economic Development Projects	1,801,640	1,558,296
Other Investments	1,196,425	13,172,601
<b>TOTAL OTHER PROPERTY &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>	28,223,617	38,830,733
Cash & Short-Term Investments	1,104,634	1,343,254
Accounts Receivable-Net	7,165,953	6,957,943
Materials & Supplies	1,679,820	756,078
Interest Receivable	64,471	215,437
Other Current and Accrued Assets	5,538,469	8,445,275
<b>TOTAL CURRENT &amp; ACCRUED ASSETS</b>	15,553,347	17,717,987
<b>DEFERRED DEBITS</b>	31,269,547	24,921,652
<b>TOTAL ASSETS &amp; OTHER DEBITS</b>	<u>236,099,295</u>	<u>235,097,813</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Long-Term Debt Economic Development	1,068,218	974,817
Series 2010A Bond	12,478,061	12,736,400
Long-Term Debt	120,822,975	122,030,705
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	134,369,254	135,741,922
Accounts Payable	824,853	3,220,144
Consumer Deposits	1,468,115	1,455,481
Other Current & Accrued Liability	3,490,982	3,699,682
<b>TOTAL CURRENT &amp; ACCRUED LIABILITIES</b>	5,783,950	8,375,307
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS</b>	1,961,755	1,855,138
Membership Fees	0	158,145
Patronage Capital	69,424,159	65,698,197
Other Equities	24,560,177	23,269,104
<b>TOTAL MARGINS &amp; OTHER EQUITIES</b>	93,984,336	89,125,446
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; OTHER CREDITS</b>	<u>236,099,295</u>	<u>235,097,813</u>

## 2019 in Review

KILOWATT HOURS SOLD TO MEMBERS.....	515,264,958
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE PER MONTH.....	933
OVERALL CONSUMER USE PER MONTH.....	1,142
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.....	31,788
NUMBER OF SERVICES.....	37,609
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.....	85
MILES OF LINE.....	
OVERHEAD.....	1,874
UNDERGROUND.....	3,479
PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIREMENTS TO DATE.....	\$51,354,674

## 2018 in Review

KILOWATT HOURS SOLD TO MEMBERS.....	530,526,655
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE PER MONTH.....	963
OVERALL CONSUMER USE PER MONTH.....	1,184
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.....	31,629
NUMBER OF SERVICES.....	37,351
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.....	88
MILES OF LINE.....	
OVERHEAD.....	1,863
UNDERGROUND.....	3,448
PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIREMENTS TO DATE.....	\$48,010,659



## Board Meeting Summary

### February 26, 2020

The monthly board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's office in Friendship, WI on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

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

All 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 January 29, 2020 regular board meeting minutes were approved.

**Director Reports:** Olson noted positive comments on staff interaction with member. Link noted aggressive solicitation by solar vendors for farmland.

**General Manager Report:** Porter shared an update on the Riverside project and the satisfactory settlement of a member's power theft case, with consideration of attorney fees and avoiding a court case.

**Financial Review Committee:** The Financial Review was completed by Ebert and Gibeaut, noting no further review of the financials necessary.

Eric Davidson of Bauman Associates was in attendance to report on the 2019 Financial Audit, noting all was in proper order and ACEC has strong accounting principles. Gibeaut noted that the board hires the auditors, determining which firm, firm's experience with cooperatives and length of contract.

#### Board Action Items:

- Board approved to begin orientation with the two incoming directors from District 5: Gary Skolarz and District 7: James Kelly including allowing them to attend the March and April board meetings after submitting ACEC Form #10, Request to Attend Meeting of BOD. Vedder suggested future potential board members attend a get-acquainted session prior to the petition process.
- Board approved awarding 135 students each a \$1,000 scholarship, using FYF funds. (This program adds no cost to the members' electric bill. FYF is funded entirely from unclaimed patronage capital checks, per Wisconsin Statute distribution is only allowed for scholarships or charitable foundation gifts.)
- Board approved the deletion of Bylaw: Article VI: Officers: Section 11: Executive Committee, to be approved by the membership at the 2020 annual meeting.
- Board approved discontinuing the current dual fuel heat rate effective August 31, 2020.
- Board approved the recommended allocation of 2019 margins of \$6,635,123.
- The next board meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the Friendship office.
- Advisory Member Committee evening meetings are scheduled for April 14 and 16.
- Gibeaut encouraged newer board members to attend the upcoming in-state CCD training.
- Board approved rescinding policy #2-25 Maintenance of Ownership Share in ATC, LLC.
- Board approved the yearly review of policy #2-28 Identity Theft Detection and Prevention.
- Board approved rescinding policy #4-2 Employee Benefit Programs.
- Board approved the 3-year reappointment terms of Nancy Akkerman and Eileen Napralla to the Operation Round-Up board.
- Gibeaut requested topics for the upcoming June Strategic Planning Session.
- Board approved the Resolution of Appreciation for retiring Finance Manager John West.
- Board approved the Resolution Authorizing No Need for Ballots for Uncontested Races in District 5 and 7, for the 2020 Board of Directors elections. Videos of a 2-minute speech of the two candidates for the At-Large position will be available on our website for members to view.
- Board self-assessments will be added to the executive session of the March board meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

*Board approved the February meeting minutes on March 25, 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](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



# IT CAN ADD UP FAST



*Don't let higher electric bills surprise you!*

With almost everyone spending a lot more time at home lately, energy consumption will be on the rise. Usually, when we're away from home, we shut the TV off, turn the thermostat to a lower temperature, and flip the lights off. But, with Governor Ever's Safer at Home order that went into effect on March 25, we're spending a lot more time at home. This means that 40-hour workweek we usually spend away is now filled

with watching television, leaving lights on, visiting the fridge (frequently), and maybe doing a few extra loads of laundry.

If there are children in your family, there may be multiple televisions and gaming consoles in use.

All of this adds up rather quickly, and we don't want you to be shocked if there is an increase in your electric bill.

Here are a few energy use calculations for an extra 40 hours of use per week:  
*\*figures depend on the size and year of model/energy efficiency.*

	Usage per hour	Cost for 40 hours/ week usage	Cost for 4 weeks of usage (160 hours)
PS4 Gaming	130-150 watts	.58-.68	2.32-2.72
PS4 Idle Menu	90 watts	0.40	1.60
Incandescent light bulb	60 watts	0.26	1.04
LED light bulb	15 watts	0.04	0.16
Laptop	20-100 watts	.08-.44	.32-1.76
Desktop Computer	60-300 watts	.26-1.34	1.04-5.36
Dishwasher	1200-2400 watts	5.38-10.76	21.52-43.04
Microwave	500-1800 watts	2.24-8.06	8.96-32.24
Washing Machine	400-1300 watts	1.80-5.82	7.20-23.28
Clothes Dryer	1800-5000 watts	8.06-22.40	32.24-89.60
Water Heater	4,000 watts	17.92	71.68
32" LED-Plasma TV	55-160 watts	.24-.72	.96-2.88
42" LED-Plasma TV	80-220 watts	.36-.98	1.44-3.92
50" LED-Plasma TV	100-300 watts	.44-1.34	1.76-5.36
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$38.06-71.16</b>	<b>\$152.24-284.64</b>

Now, it may not be realistic to assume that some of these things will be running an extra 40 hours a week. Heaven help us if our laundry and dishwasher are going 40 hours a week! But the point is, things add up quickly. Look to page 9 for helpful energy saving tips.



Let the great frog hunt commence!



Ribbit, ribbit! Here froggy, froggy!  
Aria & Elise - age 4



Farmers know a thing or two about social distancing!  
Doreen Olson



Did you know kitties love bike rides?  
Elora - age 2

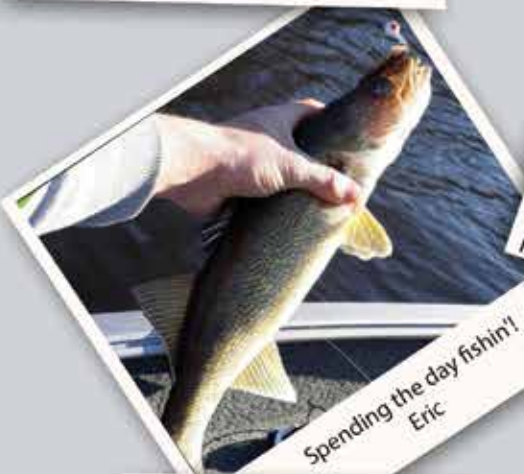


Emmy loves to explore. So many smells!

# How are you spending your time at home?



This little sweetie just had a birthday! Ada - age 1



Spending the day fishin'!  
Eric



Decorating windows for the Happy Heart Hunt. The mission is to spread happiness, love, kindness, and positivity.



Kyra - age 11  
Karlie - age 7  
Owen - age 5



See ya Emily



Kari's family is doing puzzle!



Sweet relaxation... and just a few bubbles! Ayden - age 11



Dustin & Holly's new puppy!



Dropping eggs off on the neighbor's porch. Lillian, Molly, & Melissa the Chicken



Nothin' better than a swing & sunshine! Adelaide - 9 months



Jordan taking Dozer and Aspen for a ride



I wonder who the class clown is?  
Archer - age 5, Asher - age 3



These muddy girls sure are happy!  
Callie & Sadie



One week old baby goats! Raylee holding Hershey, Matthew holding Snowball, Alyssa holding Oreo.



Now that is some talent!  
Mason - age 12



Yum! This little lady is whippin' up some puppy chow. Peyton - age 4



This cool dude is ready for yard work. Austin - age 2



We're going to put these rocks outside our great grandma's houses (they are 95 and 96 and really miss seeing us)! Kara - age 16



Teachin' Grandpa Jim how to catch the big fish!



Time for Buns of Steel!



Kari finally got her dream car!  
She broke it in by taking it out muddin'.



Cleaning up downed trees.  
Beth Ann Johnson



I love making messes for mom! Bennett - 10 months



Ava's dad built her a hallway obstacle course. Perfect for a 5 year old!

## RESCHEDULED

For safety reasons, we are bumping this event back to October.

Look to future publications for more information.

## WHAT WILL BE ACCEPTED?

- VCRs
- DVD players
- Satellite receivers
- Internet equipment
- Computer towers
- Laptops
- Docking stations
- Cell phones
- Stereo/radios
- Network equipment
- TVs
- Monitors

\*Each membership is allowed 5 items, which includes 1 monitor or TV.

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:  
ELECTRONICS RECYCLING!**

**RESCHEDULED**



Exclusively for Adams-Columbia members!