

# OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH!

By Jay A. Porter, General Manager



Adams-Columbia  
Electric Cooperative

## Employee Spotlight

October 4-10 is Customer Service Appreciation Week, so this month we're featuring our Customer Service Representative department. They answer your phone calls, emails, know the ins and outs of everything at the co-op, and are the smiling faces you see as you enter our building. Thank you, ladies, for all you do! Back row, l-r: Myself, Jane, Wendy, Liz, Megan. Front row l-r: Kristy, Danielle, Breanna.



Many people may not realize what it means to be a member of a cooperative. As a cooperative, we love to give back to our communities through a variety of programs like Operation Round-Up, Education and Steinhilber Scholarships, STEM Grant, Stuff the Bus, and Toys for Tots to name a few. You may know a few employees from the co-op because we're local people. When you call us or see our workers, you know you're working with people who live in the same community as you do. And unlike the big investor-owned utilities, we don't keep our profits. We return profits back to our members through patronage capital, which you can learn more about as you read on. Our main goal is to deliver safe and reliable electricity to our members. We will continue to do everything in our power (literally) to be your trusted source of reliable electricity, superior customer service, and community support.

To celebrate co-op month, I invite you to join us for our electronic recycling event. We will be hosting three events from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day: October 2 at our Friendship office, October 9 at our Wautoma office, and October 16 at our Pardeeville office. Members may bring up to five items per membership including one TV or monitor. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we ask that you stay in your vehicle and our employees will retrieve the items from your vehicle and take them to the dumpster for you.

My discussion day this month will be on Tuesday, October 13. I will be at our Wautoma office from 8-11 a.m. and our Pardeeville office from 1-4 p.m. Stop on by to say hi!

**Rate Adjustment** The rate adjustments that were published in September's issue are now in effect. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

**Patronage Capital Retirements** The board of directors has approved \$2.2 million in patronage capital retirements (refunds) this year. We will be retiring patronage capital from the years 2001, 2002, and a portion of 2003. This means if you were on our lines during those years and accrued patronage capital, you may see a refund on November's bill statement. If the refund amount is over \$250, a check will be mailed to you.

Still having a hard time wrapping your head around patronage capital? Visit our website at <https://www.acecwi.com/news-information/patronage-cap/> for a video that explains what patronage capital is and the difference between allocations and retirements (refunds).

**Energy Assistance** As we approach the heating season, I'd like to remind you about energy assistance. All of our members pay into this federal program every month and I encourage you to apply for assistance if you need it. A full listing of energy assistance agencies within our service area can be found on our website or you can call our office.



October 4-10 is Fire Prevention Week. Did you know that the leading areas of origin for home fires are electrical failures in the kitchen, bedroom, and the attic? Take a few minutes this month to inspect your electrical wires throughout your home to eliminate any fire hazards.

## OLD FASHIONED APPLE CRISP



### INGREDIENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 6 golden delicious apples,<br>peeled and chopped –<br>(other varieties can be<br>used, can also be sliced) | 1-1/2 tsp lemon juice                                   |
| 2 Tbsp granulated sugar  | 1 cup light brown sugar                                 |
| 1-3/4 tsp ground cinnamon,<br>divided  | 3/4 cup old fashioned oats                              |
|  | 3/4 cup all-purpose flour                               |
|  | 1/2 cup cold unsalted butter,<br>diced into small cubes |
|  | pinch of kosher salt                                    |

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350 F degrees. Butter an 8x8 baking dish, or spray with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside.
- In a mixing bowl, add chopped apples, granulated sugar, 3/4 tsp of the cinnamon, and lemon juice. Stir to combine, then transfer to prepared baking dish.
- In a separate mixing bowl, add topping ingredients (brown sugar, oats, flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, salt, and diced cold butter). Use a pastry cutter to cut the butter into the oat mixture, using a slight downward twisting motion, until mixture resembled pea-sized crumbs. Alternatively, you can use two forks or even your hands to cut butter into the mixture.
- Spread topping over apples in baking dish, and gently pat to even it out. Bake 40-50 minutes, until golden brown and bubbly.

Recipe from *The Chunky Chef*, [www.thechunkychef.com/old-fashioned-easy-apple-crisp/](http://www.thechunkychef.com/old-fashioned-easy-apple-crisp/)



# Congrats

“

This scholarship is making something that I've wanted to do for two years, happen. I appreciate it more than I can ever put into words.

- ANGELA WEGNER

”

## to our 2020 scholarship recipients!



Easton Achterberg  
Pardeeville/20



Delaney Agnew  
Cambria-Friesland/18



Makenzie Amundson  
Nekoosa/20



Jessica Bahr  
Randolph/20



Becca Baler  
Adams-Friendship/17



Alyssa Baker  
Wisconsin Dells/17



Troy Banovec  
Adams-Friendship/17



Joshua Bartlett  
Central WI Christian/20



Megan Bauer  
Wild Rose/20



Wren Benson  
Baraboo/20



Claire Bischel  
Oshkosh West/17



Brooke Blader-Lucht  
Wautoma/20



Andrew Boschert  
Beaver Dam/19



Savannah Brooks  
Wild Rose/20



Emma Brooks  
Wild Rose/17



Mikayla Brouette  
Pardeeville/17



Callie Brouette  
Pardeeville/20



Bryanna Budzinski  
Randolph/20



Caitlyn Budzinski  
Randolph/18



Hannah Bunde  
Wautoma/17



Dana Burant  
Franklin/18



Cole Carter  
Adams-Friendship/16



Cade Carter  
Adams-Friendship/17



Anna Caswell  
Wild Rose/20



Emma Chase  
Wautoma/19



Mercedes Christensen  
Adams-Friendship/11



Riley Collins  
Adams-Friendship/17



Carson Cook  
Appleton East/19



Camilla Cords  
Waunakee/19



Brenna Coron  
Wautoma/20





Emily Dahlke  
Adams-Friendship/20



Stacey DeMunk  
Adams-Friendship/20



Devon DeYoung  
Cambria-Friesland/18



Isaiah Dillon  
Nekoosa/20



Joshua Dillon  
Nekoosa/17



Shelby Dixon  
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln/20



Colton Ellis  
Lakeland Union/20  
*Steinhaus Recipient*



Eliza Endres  
Waunakee/20



Natalie Farrington  
Pardeeville/20



Jenna Fenner  
Westfield/20



Morgan Fenrich  
Winneconne/20



Mikayla Flyte  
Westfield/19



Dylan Foulkes  
Fall River/20



Kaleigh Gaffney  
Whitney Young Magnet/19



Gabrielle Garrigan  
Portage/20



Caden Gerzmehle  
Nekoosa/18



Hannah Glavin  
Adams-Friendship/16



Rebekah Gratz  
Catholic Memorial/19



Ava Gravander  
Wild Rose/20



Alexa Guellig  
New Holstein/18



Thomas Gustafson  
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln/20



Ashley Hahn  
Cambria-Friesland/17



Emma Hamilton  
Adams-Friendship/20



Sara Hannerian  
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln/17



Abbygail Hayes  
Columbus/19



Taylor Hayes  
Pardeeville/13



Peyton Hiller  
Adams-Friendship/19



Kayla Hoffman  
Verona/20



Ethan Hughes  
Edgewood Sacred Heart/20



Chester Isaacson  
Wisconsin Dells/18



Courtney Isselmann  
Roncalli Catholic/20



Kristin Jenks  
Wild Rose/17



Kahler Juday  
Wautoma/20



Julia Kapp  
Wautoma/20



Nathan Klismeyer  
Winnebago Lutheran/01



Devyn Koch  
Wisc. Rapids Lincoln/16





Danielle Koenen  
Burlington/16



Derek Koenen  
Burlington/18



Molly Kolano  
Wisconsin Dells/20



Nicole Kolano  
Wisconsin Dells/16



Makenna Koopman  
Cambria-Friesland/20



Haley Kramer  
Tri County/19



Gage Krause  
Pardeeville/19



Taylor LaChapelle  
Adams-Friendship/17



Nicolas Langenfeld  
WI Connections Academy/20



Aaron Larson  
Franklin/17



Breana Lentz  
Westfield/20



Gabrielle Lois  
Wautoma/17



Skylar Lynch  
Pardeeville/20



Seth Martin  
Lodi/19



Alexis Mast  
Markesan/18



Kevin McCarthy  
Sun Prairie/19



Leah McKelvey  
Grafton/20



Trenton McManus  
Adams-Friendship/16



Kendall Minick  
Columbus/20



Gabriel Murphy  
Madison LaFollette/20



Dylan Musiedlak  
Wisconsin Dells/19



Dalton Nampel  
Beaver Dam/20  
*Steinhaus Recipient*



Clara Neeb  
Montello/14



Cade Nelson  
Waunakee/20



Zachary Nemitz-Meyer  
Westfield/18



Madelyn Nickell  
Mukwonago/19



Samantha Nickell  
Mukwonago/18



Rachel Olp  
New Berlin Eisenhower/20



Katherine Onell  
Poynette/17



Clinton Ottman  
Berlin/17



Madeline Peterman  
Wautoma/18



Cayden Plagenz  
Markesan/20  
*Steinhaus Recipient*



Natasha Pongratz  
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln/17



Lillian Radzikinas  
Westfield/19



Jonah Radzikinas  
Westfield/18



Hanna Raley  
Cambria-Friesland/19





Faith Schaffer  
Adams-Friendship/19



Hank Schinner  
Hartford Union/20  
*Steinhaus Recipient*



Taryn Schwartz  
Fall River/20



Connor Siegenthaler  
New Glarus/20



Jordan Smith  
Adams-Friendship/20



Molly Soda  
Princeton/20



Hailey Soper  
Wild Rose/19



Lane Steinhaus  
Portage/15



Jon Steinhaus  
Wisconsin Dells/20



Parker Stelter  
Montello/19



Mason Stelter  
Montello/17



Ella Stelter  
Montello/20



Hailey Struzynski  
Wautoma/17



Hannah Struzynski  
Wautoma/17



Allyson Tebon  
Deerfield/18



Mackenzie Thom  
Wautoma/20



Bradley Truehl  
Tri County/19



Katherine Vaile  
Greendale/20



Andrew Vujnovich  
Columbus/18



Ethan Wagner  
Montello/20



Angela Wegner  
Wautoma/21



McKenzie Wentland  
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln/17



Kayla Wentland  
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln/17



Caleb Williams  
Wild Rose/20



Marcus Wolff  
Wilmet Union/20



Jaden Wright  
Westfield/18

No Photo Available:

Elizabeth Balthazor - Stoughton/20  
Jade Graebel - Wautoma/14  
Jade Hildebrand - Nekoosa/20  
Brett Hirst - Wisconsin Dells/20

Emily Olson - Montello/20  
Desiree Torres - Montello/20  
Maia VanderWerff - Wild Rose/20  
Preston Witthun - Markesan/20  
Tanner Wright - Columbus/20

We're proud to say we awarded **\$135,000 In Educational Scholarships** and **\$6,000 in Steinhaus Scholarships** in 2020! With all of the unknowns this year, knowing how students will pay for college shouldn't be one of them. Funding for our scholarship programs comes from the Federated Youth Foundation, which is where unclaimed patronage capital goes. Our scholarships are awarded annually with the Educational Scholarship being available January 1 and the Steinhaus Scholarship available March 1. Visit our website to learn more about both scholarships and mark your calendar to apply in 2021. We wish everyone the best in their academic endeavors this year.



# COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

These seven staples represent who we are, what we stand for and what we strive to do every single day. All cooperatives follow these core principles to steer them towards success, for the organization and for the community.



## 1 Voluntary & Open Membership

We offer our services to anyone willing to accept the responsibility. Here are some members from a member appreciation event!



## 2 Democratic Member Control

We're member-owned, so that means members vote for who they want to represent them on the board of directors to make decisions for the co-op.



## 3 Members' Economic Participation

Instead of keeping our profits, we distribute our extra funds back to our members. Trudy, our records associate, handles patronage capital.



## 4 Autonomy & Independence

We are a self-help organization controlled by our members. We're not regulated, giving us the freedom to operate how our members want.



## 5 Education, Training & Information

By offering our STEM Grant, schools are able to get the supplies they need to teach students valuable skills for the future.



## 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When havoc strikes, our crews are ready to assist other co-ops if they need more man power. Brett, pictured left, helped at Alger-Delta in April.



## 7 Concern for Community

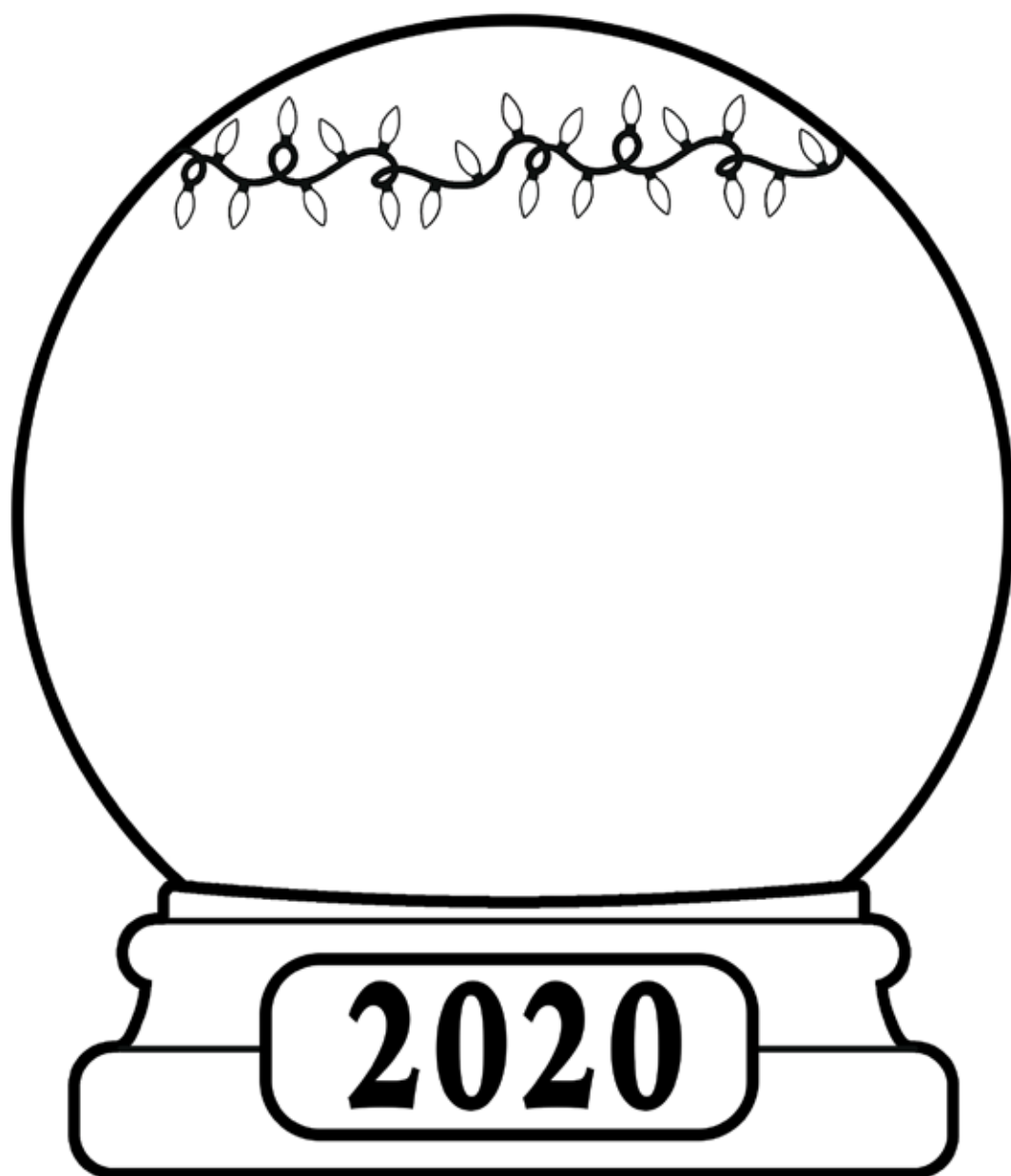
Ever wonder how Christmas lights get on a humongous tree? Our crews are happy to help string the lights on the tree in Friendship each year.

# Coloring Contest!

Create and color your own holiday scene in the snow globe below for a chance to be on the cover of ACEC's holiday card! Colorings may be mailed to ACEC, Attn: Haley Melby, P.O. Box 70, Friendship, WI 53934 or email them to [hmelby@acecwi.com](mailto:hmelby@acecwi.com). Please return to ACEC by November 1, 2020. By returning this, you acknowledge that your child's name and submission may be used in ACEC's marketing materials. Winner will receive a prize package in the mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age & Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_







## Board Meeting Summary

July 29, 2020

The monthly board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the Friendship Service Center, practicing safe distancing due to COVID-19.

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

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 June 25, 2020 regular board meeting minutes were approved.

**General Manager Report:** Porter gave an update on the protocols for the COVID-19 and if lobby will be closed then board meetings will be held via conference call. Porter noted the timing of the Public Service Commission's order regarding disconnects and the decision to continue proceeding with disconnects as the members affected is less than 1% of our membership.

**Director Reports:** The board thanked Porter for his weekly updates on the pandemic. Several board members had educational interactions with members.

**Presentation:** Courtney Berner of the UW Center for Cooperatives virtually joined the meeting providing the educational opportunities that are available to the board including a Director's Forum and online webinars.

### Board Action Items:

- Gibeaut noted the value of NRECA and WECA educational opportunities. Hoernke asked Gibeaut to select a monthly topic/podcast (5 minutes) and board will add to monthly agenda.
- Board agreed to use the monthly board educational opportunities with guest speakers provided by Porter.
- Board approved to rescind board policy #2-2: *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Kerska provided cost savings by creating our own in-house newsletter of approximately \$175,000 per year, beginning January 1, 2021. Board expressed that members would need to be informed of this change. Members can still view the *WECN* magazine electronically on WECA's website or subscribe to the magazine directly through WECA.
- Board approved the updated board policies #4-27: Sexual & Other Unlawful Harassment and #9-1: Equal Employment Opportunity.
- Several bylaw discussion items were tabled to the August meeting.
- In lieu of a board succession plan, board in agreement that a current board member should notify the board of their intention of running for re-election or not by November 1st prior to their term expiring.
- Gibeaut noted Chuck Simmons, WI NRECA representative, asked her to join the NRECA Resolutions Committee at the Region 5 & 6 Meeting in October.
- Board in agreement that a new self-assessment should be done, perhaps using UW Center for Cooperatives.

**Departmental Reports:** Departmental reports were reviewed. Roberts reviewed the drivers for setting rates, noting cost recovery should come from cost drivers. Three parts of the rates: fixed costs, capacity or distribution demand, and energy costs.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

*Board approved the July meeting minutes on August 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](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  
Haley Melby—Editor

### ACEC Board of Directors

#### District 1

Gene Alexander  
Term Expires 2021

#### District 2

Ethan Olson  
Term Expires 2022

#### District 3

Aaron Bonnett  
At-Large  
Term Expires 2023

#### District 3

Aaron Hoernke, Chair  
Term Expires 2022

#### District 4

Jon Ebert  
Term Expires 2022

#### District 5

Gary Skolarz  
Term Expires 2023

#### District 6

Cheri Gibeaut, Secretary  
Term Expires 2021

#### District 7

Dietrich Vedder, Vice Chair  
At-Large  
Term Expires 2021

#### District 7

James Kelly, Treasurer  
Term Expires 2023