

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

By Jay A. Porter, General Manager

Employee Spotlight



November 18 is GIS day, and I'd like to recognize Jason, our GIS analyst/coordinator. Jason takes care of the mapping for our entire service area, pinpointing where every piece of equipment is located. We're glad you are a part of our team!

New Co-op Publication! I'm excited to announce that beginning January 1 members will be receiving a new four-page newsletter with their bill statement or digitally called *The Wire*. This new publication combines the features of the information we published in the *Connections Newsletter* and the information that is published in this magazine. With that being said, members will no longer receive this magazine on behalf of the co-op starting at the new year. After much evaluation, we found that combining the information into one publication is much more efficient and cost effective.

Members may still receive the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine by visiting <https://wecnmagazine.com/about/subscribe>. The price to subscribe will be \$13 per year for 12 issues or \$35 for three years (36 issues).

We also have a new page on our website to submit your recipes for a chance to be featured in *The Wire*! Winners selected will receive an ACEC cutting board set in the mail. To submit your favorite recipe, visit <https://www.acecwi.com/submit-a-recipe>.

Change On Your Bill All members have the WI Non-Taxable Program line item on their bill. This charge may vary for each bill as it is calculated by charging 3 percent of your bill up to \$1.50. Going forward, members will still have this charge, but the maximum you will be charged is \$1.34 instead of \$1.50.

You may be wondering, "What is this money for?" or "Where does it go?" That's a great question! Half of that goes towards funding energy assistance agencies in Wisconsin and the other half goes towards energy efficient programs, like Focus on Energy. Because all members pay into this program each month, I encourage you to take advantage of rebates

and incentives from Focus on Energy and to apply for energy assistance if the need arises.

Mark Your Calendar

- This month's Jay's Discussion Day will be on Tuesday, November 10. I'll be at our Pardeeville office from 8–11 a.m. and our Wautoma office from 1–4 p.m.
- Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. I hope you all enjoy the holiday with your loved ones as well.
- It's about seven months away, but mark your calendars for Thursday, May 13, 2021. We will be hosting our annual meeting at our Friendship office. More details will come in *The Wire*, our new newsletter mentioned earlier.
- November 8 is National STEM Day. We offer a STEM grant for public, public charter, private, home school, Christian schools, and organizations in our service area for classrooms with students K–12. Encourage the educators you know to apply; we love to support our schools. Learn more at www.acecwi.com/stem-grant.

Patronage Retirements Watch your November bill statement if you had service with us in 2001, 2002, or 2003. You may have a bill credit this month as we retired (refunded) \$2.2 million back to our members this year.

Best Ever Sausage, Sage, and Apple Stuffing

INGREDIENTS

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 lb. Italian sausage (casing removed)
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 stalks celery (thinly sliced)
- ½ yellow onion (chopped)
- 1 tart apple (such as Granny Smith or Pink Lady, cored and chopped)
- ½ teaspoon each: dried sage, kosher salt and black pepper
- 1 ½ cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 large egg (beaten)
- 3 cups cubed toasted bread or dry stuffing mix



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly coat an 8x8-inch or other medium-sized baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add sausage and cook, crumbling with a spoon. Once sausage begins to brown, add butter, celery, onion, apple, sage, salt, and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until vegetables are tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in broth and egg. Add stuffing mix and stir to combine.
3. Pour into prepared baking dish and cover with foil. Bake for 15 minutes uncovered. Remove foil and bake until crisp, 15 to 20 minutes more.
4. Enjoy!

Recipe from *Comfort of Cooking* <https://www.thecomfortofcooking.com/2014/11/best-ever-sausage-sage-apple-stuffing.html>



'Tis the season for gun shots as many celebrate their favorite Wisconsin holiday, rifle deer season. As many members make their way out in the woods, please remember what you've learned in hunter safety. Be sure to never use utility poles or other utility equipment as a part of your hunting stand or as a target.

Electronic Recycling 2020



3
Events

786
TVs/Monitors

12
Dumpsters
filled

143
Devices
donated

Even though 2020 has kept us pretty cooped up, we were so happy to see how many of our members (and furry friends) came to our electronic recycling events last month. Members commented on how smooth and efficient the process was and we received endless "thank yous" too. We're glad our members helped us celebrate co-op month while doing something good for the environment!

In addition to having non-stop lines of cars to recycle electronics, we also donated 143 cell phones and tablets to Cell Phones for Soliders, a cost-free communication service and emergency fund for active-duty military members and veterans.

Happy Veterans Day

Thank you to all veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve our country. We are forever grateful for your courage and bravery. One day a year is never enough to recognize our veterans for fighting for our freedom.

Here at ACEC, we are proud to employ three veterans:

Brian (Journeyman Lineman)

Josh (Operations Supervisor)

Mark (Engineering Assistant)



Bring joy to a local child in need by donating a new, unwrapped toy this holiday season.

This year the need for toys is higher than ever. We donated toys to over **2,100 children** in seven counties last year thanks to the support from our local communities.

FRIENDSHIP-WI.TOYSFORTOTS.ORG



HOW TO
DONATE
A TOY



MAKE A
MONETARY
DONATION





Board Meeting Summary

August 26, 2020

The monthly board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 8:30 a.m., at the Pardeeville Service Center.

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

Gibeaut joined a portion of the meeting via conference call. 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 July 29, 2020 regular board meeting minutes were approved.

Presentations: Wendy Fassbind, WECA's director of education, virtually joined the meeting providing the educational opportunities that are available through our statewide organization in affiliation with NRECA.

Board Action Items:

- BOD approved the Patronage General Retirement for all of 2001, 2002 and 24% of 2003 for a total retirement including estates of \$2,584,569.00.
- BOD approved the Declaration of Forfeiture of Unclaimed Patronage Capital and General Fund checks issued prior to December 2016 for the authorization to publish and forfeit the funds to the FYF 60 days after publication.
- BOD approved the updated board policies: #8-4 Unclaimed Patronage Capital and #8-6 Financial Policy.
- The next board meeting will be held on September 30, 2020 at the Friendship Service Center beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- BOD approved these proposed bylaw additions/changes:
 - *Voting for bylaw changes, additions and/or deletions may be extended from voting at the annual meeting only to voting by absentee ballots and electronic ballots, such that each member may vote for such bylaw changes, additions and/or deletions using personal voting at the annual meeting, or using an absentee ballot, or using an electronic ballot.*
 - *Voting for approval of annual meeting minutes may be extended from voting at the annual meeting only to voting by absentee ballots and electronic ballots, such that each member may approve the annual meeting minutes using personal voting at the annual meeting, or using an absentee ballot, or using an electronic ballot.*
 - *Optionally, in order to prevent adverse amendments offered at the annual meeting on specific bylaw changes, additions and/or deletions, the GM with the consent of the board of directors may use a ballot mailing to all members of ACEC as the voting mechanism for such specific bylaw changes, additions and/or deletions.*
 - *Section 7 in Article III: Meeting minutes of the annual meeting may be approved by the board of directors two months after publishing the annual meeting minutes in the monthly newsletter, provided that during those two months no corrections have been received from the members or all the corrections that have been received from the members have been made or have been satisfactorily dealt with.*
- BOD approved the reduction of the board size from nine members to seven members. A roll call vote was taken with six for the reduction and three against.
- BOD approved the removal of the At-Large positions.
- BOD will discuss redistricting at the October meeting. Olson offered to end his term a year early so that two board positions would be up for election in 2021.
- BOD approved term limits of 3 – three-year terms (total of nine years) with a year off and then eligible to run again, not retroactive to those currently on the board. A roll call vote was taken with five in favor and four against.
- Gibeaut will be our NRECA voting delegate for the October Regional Business meeting.
- BOD authorized Hoernke to select the general manager assessment for the board to complete by the September meeting.

Departmental Reports: Departmental reports were reviewed. Hendricksen presented two PowerPoints on BOD Financials and our Patronage Capital Program.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Board approved the August meeting minutes on September 30, 2020.

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



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

Friendship Service Center

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Friendship, WI 53934-0070

Office Hours: Monday – Friday,

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

www.acecwi.com

Customer Service & Billing

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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