

# THE WIRE

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • December 2021

## WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN!

We're proud of the great team we have at ACEC, and we've accomplished a lot this year. Below are a few points worth mentioning that impacted our membership in 2021.



### WEST RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER (WREC)

Alliant Energy's WREC natural gas power plant started to operate in late 2020, as you may recall we have a 4.8% ownership of this plant. Because we have ownership in WREC, we receive a credit from Alliant each month. Our ownership credit has helped to reduce the purchase power bill we pay to Alliant each month. Fluctuations of purchased energy costs, either up or down, are reflected on members' bills in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). For the average residential bill, the ownership credit has helped to reduce the energy cost by roughly \$2.80 per month for an average residential member with 500 kilowatt-hours billed usage.

Due to low energy costs and the ownership credit combined, the PCA has been a credit for most of 2021. Recently, natural gas prices increased, driving an increase in the cost to produce electricity. This resulted in the PCA now being a charge rather than a credit. The WREC credit continues to offset the cost to purchase power and overall helps to minimize the rising energy costs that impact your bill.



### COMMUNITY 5K & FUN DAY EVENT

It was great to see our members in person again at our co-op month event. Over 100 racers participated in our 5K and enjoyed live music and food trucks. Additionally, attendees donated \$232 and 323 pounds of food to the local food pantry in Adams. We're anxious about the 2022 events we have in store for you.



### PATRONAGE CAPITAL (YOUR OWNERSHIP IN THE CO-OP)

We're proud to say we refunded over \$4.8 million to our members this year. Every member accrues patronage capital. Each year, our board of directors determines the amount to refund to our members while making sure we still have enough funds on hand to operate.

In June, the board refunded \$2.5 million to members that had service with us in 2020 and in November, they refunded \$2.3 million to members that had service with us in 2003 and 2004. This is one of the perks that separates us from investor-owned utilities.



### ANNUAL MEETING

We had the pleasure of welcoming Adam Jones, representing district 2, to our board of directors at our annual meeting in May. Those of you that live in districts 3 and 5, start thinking about if you'd like to join our board. We'll start accepting nominations by petition and advisory resolutions on January 1 with a deadline of February 18.

To see what district you live in, visit [www.acecwi.com/district-map-and-contact-information](http://www.acecwi.com/district-map-and-contact-information). Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding running for a board seat or submitting advisory resolutions.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER 15

Stop by our Wautoma office from 8–11 a.m. or our Pardeeville office from 1–4 p.m. to chat with our general manager, John.

### DECEMBER 24 & 27

Our office will be closed for Christmas. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, December 28.

### DECEMBER 31

Our office will be closed for New Year's Day. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, January 3.

### JANUARY 1

Our Educational Scholarship is open! Details are on our website.

### JANUARY 15

Deadline for applications to be submitted for Operation Round-Up.



## OPERATION ROUND-UP DONATES NEARLY \$50,000

The Operation Round-Up board of directors generously awarded \$48,995.30 to the applicants listed below this past year. The next deadline to apply for an Operation Round-Up grant is January 15. Encourage individuals and organizations you know to apply! Visit our website to learn more and to apply.

- **Marquette County Sheriff's Office**  
Trailer for Drone Search & Rescue Team
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
Hygiene Supplies
- **Wautoma Area Fire District**  
Handheld Radios
- **Easter Seals Wisconsin**  
Campership Funds
- **Assumption Catholic Schools**  
SMART Displays
- **Briggsville Fire Company** Pagers
- **Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA**  
Expand FFA Food Bank
- **BREATHE** Property Improvements
- **Adams County Humane Society**  
Printing & Mailing Expenses
- **Pardeeville Area School District**  
Refrigerator & Freezer
- **New Chester Fire and Rescue**  
Replacement Turnout Gear
- **South Burr Oak United Methodist Church** AED
- **Alex C. Dove Foundation**  
Washer, Dryer, & Refrigerator
- **Marquette County Home & Community Education**  
New Website
- **Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanis Club**  
Chairs
- **Briggsville Fire Company**  
New Fire Hose
- **Portage Curling Association**  
Wheelchair Ramp
- **Quilts of Valor**  
Fabric, Batting, & Backings
- **Big Flats Fire Department**  
Replacement AED Batteries

## WHY YOUR ELECTRIC USAGE MAY BE HIGH

It's common for electric bills to increase this time of year. This happens for a few reasons:

- Shorter days and longer nights mean we're indoors more than usual, watching TV, and using other electric appliances.
- During the holidays, we are gathering with friends and family.
- Cold weather makes the furnace work harder to keep your home or business warm.

### ENERGY TIP

Heading out of town this holiday season? Use power strips to ensure your electronics are turned off, and turn your thermostat down a few degrees.

Download the SmartHub app to monitor your daily usage. This helps to understand when you're using the most energy and where you can cut back. Trust us, it's a pretty helpful tool right at your fingertips.



## CHRISTMAS COOKIE RECIPE BOOK



Congratulations to Rachel from Montello! Rachel's Reindeer Cookies recipe was selected for our Christmas card.

We received some mouth-watering Christmas cookie recipes from our members, so we decided to compile them into our first Christmas Cookie Recipe Book for members. Visit

[www.acecwi.com/christmas-cookie-recipe-book](http://www.acecwi.com/christmas-cookie-recipe-book) to download the PDF of 11 Christmas cookie recipes, or scan this QR code.





Thank you to everyone that has donated to our Toys for Tots program, and an extra thank you is extended to all of our business partners. Without the help of our members and businesses, we wouldn't be able to make Christmas as bright and magical for so many local families in need.

Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at any of these locations until December 17. To make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to "Toys for Tots" and mail to ACEC, Attn: Toys for Tots, P.O. Box 70, Friendship, WI, 53934.

## OVER 80 DONATION LOCATIONS

### ADAMS AREA

ACEC  
Royal Bank  
A-F Motors  
Cell Plus  
One Community Bank  
BMO Harris Bank  
Side Street Salon

### ROME AREA

Lester Library  
Bliss Salon & Spa  
First Weber  
Lake Arrowhead  
Town of Rome

### SOUTHERN ADAMS COUNTY

Fur Fin and Feather

### WISCONSIN DELLS AREA

Cell Plus  
North American Title  
GO Calendars and Games  
Bank of Wisconsin Dells  
(both locations)

### BARABOO AREA

Oliver Motors  
Slumberland  
Century 21  
First Weber  
Don Larson GMC  
New Life Physical Therapy  
Remedy Intelligent Staffing  
Andersen Windows  
American Family Insurance  
- Sheila Link

### POYNETTE AREA

Wholistic Healing

### WESTFIELD AREA

Pace Chiropractic  
It's Poppin  
Virch's True Value  
National Exchange Bank  
New Life Physical Therapy  
American Family Insurance  
- Phillip Parker  
Westfield Family Dentistry  
Precision Collision  
BMO Harris Bank

### MONTELO AREA

American Family Insurance  
- Shannon Freimuth  
Rural Mutual Insurance  
- Jeanne Gaudet  
Gieffre Insurance  
First Weber  
Fox River Family Dentistry  
Coldwell Banker Cotter  
Realty

### WAUTOMA AREA

Thrivent Financial  
Wauhara Argus  
Sondalle Auto  
Hometown Bank  
Wausau Homes  
Ellickson Agency  
Lifequest  
Associated Bank  
Wauhara Chamber of  
Commerce  
Wauhara County Building

### PRINCETON AREA

American Family Insurance  
- Tabitha Pierce  
Dollar General

### PORTAGE AREA

American Family Insurance  
- Sheila Link  
BJ's TV and Appliance  
The Mercantile  
RP Home & Harvest  
Remedy Intelligent Staffing  
American Legion  
First Weber  
New Life Physical Therapy

### PARDEEVILLE AREA

Edward Jones

### COLUMBUS AREA

American Family Insurance  
- Eric Cotter  
Columbus Ace  
Julie's Java House  
Farmers and Merchants  
Union Bank  
(both Columbus locations,  
Rio, Friesland, & Fall River)  
MK Cellular  
Countryside Ford  
Napleton Chevy  
Color X Salon  
State Farm Insurance  
- Dave Maylone

### RANDOLPH AREA

Horicon Bank

### BEAVER DAM AREA

Fleet Farm  
Menards  
Edward Jones



**Adams-Columbia  
Electric Cooperative**

## CONTACT US

Customer Service & Billing  
(800) 831-8629

IVR Payment  
1(844) 219-1223

Power Outages  
(888) 928-2232

Diggers Hotline  
(800) 242-8511 or 811

Email  
[acec@acecwi.com](mailto:acec@acecwi.com)

Website  
[www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com)

Follow us on social media  
@ACECWI

Business Hours  
Monday - Friday,  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friendship Lobby Hours  
Monday - Friday,  
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friendship Office  
P.O. Box 70  
401 East Lake Street  
Friendship, WI 53934

Pardeeville Office (Drop Box Only)  
W6290 State Road 33  
Pardeeville, WI 53954

Wautoma Office (Drop Box Only)  
N1519 State Road 22  
Wautoma, WI 54982

Did you know you can compare  
your billing history over the last  
12 months in the SmartHub app?





## SAFETY MESSAGE

Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

Don't toss light strands in the air as they could come into contact with a power line.

Before using a ladder, always know where overhead power lines are located.

Don't use staples, nails, or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires, or extension cords.

Keep at least 10 feet between yourself and any item you're holding, and a power line.

## Briefing of the Board Meeting

September 29, 2021

### Board Action Items:

- Approved and rescinded policies.
- Approved the amendment of the pension plan.
- Approved funding \$5,000 to Mid-State Technical College addition in Stevens Point, WI from FYF funds.
- Approved August expense vouchers.
- Rules Committee members were reappointed and Directors Olson and Ebert were added.
- Director Hoernke will be WECA voting delegate for the Annual Meeting.
- Directors Skolarz and Ebert will attend WECA trainings in October.

The full board meeting summary can be found on our website at [www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins](http://www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins).



## Employee Spotlight

Larry Gasienica  
Mechanic

"I enjoy working with a great group of people at the co-op that helps to make an enjoyable workplace."

My job has a great variety of things to do which keeps it interesting along with being busy."

Thanks for keeping our vehicles maintained and on the road, Larry!

## SCANDINAVIAN ALMOND BARS

PREP TIME - 30 MINS | COOK TIME - 15 MINS

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 3/4 c flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 c butter, softened
- 1 c sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- 2 Tbsp milk
- 1/2 c sliced almonds

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a small bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, beat together softened butter and sugar. Beat in egg and almond extract until combined.
3. Beat in flour mixture. This mixture will be crumbly but will get better as you work with it.
4. Divide dough into four equal portions. Shape each portion into a 12-inch long roll. Place two rolls 4 to 5 inches apart on a parchment-covered cookie sheet. Flatten each roll until it is 3-inches wide.
5. Brush flattened (3"x12") logs with milk; sprinkle with almonds.
6. Bake at 325 degrees for 12-15 minutes, or until edges are lightly brown.
7. While still warm and soft on the cookie sheet, cut each cookie "slab" diagonally into 1-inch wide strips. Carefully transfer cookies to a wire rack and let cool.
8. Drizzle with almond icing; let dry.



### ALMOND ICING

- 1 c sifted powdered sugar
- 1/4 tsp almond extract
- 3-4 tsp milk (to make drizzle consistency)

Stir together sifted powdered sugar, almond extract, and enough milk to make drizzling consistency.

Store cookies in an airtight container.

These cookies are even better after they sit overnight.

Recipe from Sarie Doverspike