

SAFETY MESSAGE

There are 20 million miles of electrical lines buried underground, and one is damaged every six minutes. Projects such as planting a tree, installing a new fence, or digging a trench, using hand tools or power equipment, can lead to contact with underground lines if the digger doesn't know where they are. To avoid hitting an electrical line, contractors and homeowners should call 8-1-1 at least three business days BEFORE digging to have underground electric lines and other facilities marked so they can be avoided, it's the law.

Scan the QR code to watch the safety video



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • June 2022



Briefing of the Board Meeting

March 21, 2022

Board Action Items:

- Approved policies
- Approved the 2021 allocation amount to be allocated to members' patronage capital balances
- Approved Resolution of Appreciation for Ronald Wormet, member of the Operation Round-Up board
- Approved February expense vouchers

View the full meeting summary on our website: [www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins](http://www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins)



Employee Spotlight

Kari Banovec  
Accountant

Kari works in our finance department and has worked for the co-op for nearly 18 years. She works on monthly and yearly financial reports, ensures accounts are in balance, handles our payroll, and monitors the co-op's finances.

"I have worked with some very wonderful people during my time, from starting my career here with a big storm to transitions in software and co-workers. My former and current co-workers have made me the employee I am today. I cannot thank everyone enough and could not imagine a better work environment!"

We appreciate your hard work, Kari!



\$5.5 MILLION REFUNDED TO MEMBER-OWNERS

One of the benefits of being a cooperative member is cooperative principle #3 - Member Economic Participation (a.k.a. patronage capital).

The board of directors are refunding \$5.5 million to members who had service with us in 2021. High electricity sales contributed to excess margins (profits) at the co-op. Refunding excess margins is our way of giving back to our membership until a rate adjustment is made.

Patronage capital separates co-ops from municipalities and other investor-owned utilities. We refund profits to our member-owners instead of giving profits to shareholders.

Keep an eye on your June bill statement for a credit if you had service with us last year. If the credit is over \$600, a check may be mailed.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Members gathered at Pardeeville High School on May 18 for our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Safety & Environmental Coordinator, Eric Johnson, gave a safety message about what to do if a vehicle comes into contact with electric utility equipment or downed power lines.

General Manager, John West, recognized staff, directors, and committees for their contribution to the co-op. West also discussed 2021 highlights, including how the financial health of the co-op impacts members, upcoming member events, and our scholarship programs.

Attorney Niles Berman from Wheeler Van Sickle conducted the director election by voice vote/voting card. Directors Ebert and Hoernke were re-elected to serve a three-year term.

If you'd like to watch the annual meeting recording, a video is on our YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/Bgo0jNLgzw>.



Jon Ebert  
District 5



Aaron Hoernke  
District 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 15 & JULY 13

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. Members are welcome to schedule an appointment to meet with John at our Friendship office anytime.

JULY 4

Our office will be closed on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day.

JULY 15

Submit individual or organization applications for Operation Round-Up by Friday, July 15.

REFRIGERATOR DILL PICKLES

PREP TIME - 15 MINS | COOK TIME - 24 HOURS

INGREDIENTS

- 8 c cucumber chunks
- 2 c white vinegar
- 3 Tbsp dill seed
- 1/3 c salt
- 1 medium sliced onion
- 6 c water
- 4 tsp minced garlic



RECIPE NOTES

The great thing about these pickles is that you can make them all year long because you don't have to wait for dill season!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Boil water with vinegar and salt until salt is dissolved and it is steaming hot.
2. Meanwhile, place half of above-listed ingredients in each jar.
3. Pour water/vinegar solution to fill jar and seal. Let sit 24 hours before refrigerating or eating.

Recipe from Suzanne Erdman of Portage, WI



# SUBMIT FARM PHOTOS



**We need your help!**  
We're seeking photos for our 2023 member calendar. Our theme is "Life on the Farm." The deadline is fast approaching, so submit your photos from all seasons that represent this farming lifestyle.

- Ideas for photos include:
- Tractors/Equipment
  - Farm Fields/Landscapes
  - Barns
  - Farm Animals
  - Crops

To submit a photo, visit [www.acecwi.com/submit-your-photos](http://www.acecwi.com/submit-your-photos).

# JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH



We all know Wisconsin is the dairy state, but what does that mean for the co-op? We serve 103 dairy farms throughout our service area, not to mention so much of our service area is farmland.

Our appreciation for Wisconsin's farmers runs deep. That's why we're encouraging members to support our dairy farmers in any way they can.

Buy locally-sourced dairy products, attend a dairy breakfast near you, or take time to learn more about the dairy industry. Celebrate Dairy Month with a scoop of ice cream and some squeaky cheese curds!



## OPERATION WOOD DUCK LEARNING FOR LIFE

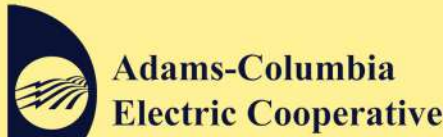
Mrs. Johnson's class at Adams-Friendship Elementary (AFE) received a STEM Grant from the co-op for an engaging and memorable class project. The Operation Wood Duck project has students measure and build wood duck houses. However, fourth grade is a bit young for students to construct and build these houses on their own. That's when Mrs. Johnson reached out to Adams-Friendship High School (AFHS) for their help and expertise.

On May 12, the fourth-grade classes visited AFHS and worked with high school students to construct these houses during AFHS's Community Service Day. Both the agriculture department and the technology education (woods) teacher collaborated with AFE to create a mentee/mentor project between the elementary and high school students.



This mentorship is a memorable experience for young students as this may be one of the first times students get to use tools and be in a woodworking shop. The high school students took pride in sharing their knowledge by teaching the fourth-grade students and allowing them to build the houses themselves.

The wood duck houses will be placed on school property. "It's our intention to also provide opportunities for the students that will instill a love of learning, sense of community service, and stewardship toward taking care of our planet that will carry into adulthood," Mrs. Johnson stated.



## 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 report power outages through your SmartHub account? Download the app today!



### HANG CLOTHES OUTSIDE

Where and when possible, air-drying clothes instead of using a dryer not only saves energy but also helps them last longer.



## Summer Energy Tips

### TURN OFF FANS

Make sure you turn off fans when leaving a room. Remember, fans cool people, not the room.



### GRILL OUT

During the summer months, grilling outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



### THE RIGHT A/C UNIT

Make sure your A/C unit is not oversized and fits your space properly. When installing, be sure the window unit fits tightly so outdoor air isn't getting inside.

