



THE WIRE



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • October 2022

Thursday, December 14, 1939

Some REA Lines Have Been Energized

Adams, Wisconsin, Dec. 8—Farmers in Easton neighborhood are the first to get service.

That long awaited hour for many an Adams and Marquette county has come. The long dark winter nights will be brighter this winter for the many subscribers on the Adams Marquette electric Co-operative project. For at last these farmer's dreams have been answered and the Co-operative officials started Monday, December 4th to turn on the juice for the many farmers who gave their support to this fine project. Subscribers number one and two were Walter Wilson and Maurice Roller, who had the privilege of being the first members to have their meters connected.

85 YEARS OF ELECTRIC SERVICE TO MEMBERS IN RURAL WISCONSIN

Our story begins in 1935 when President Franklin Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), as many of our members still refer to us. Beginning in early May 1937, Columbus Rural Electric Co-op was established. The following year, Adams-Marquette Electric Co-op opened its doors. The final piece of our co-op puzzle is Waushara County Electric Co-op, which was incorporated in 1940.

Adams-Columbia was formed in 1987 following the successful merger between the former Adams-Marquette Electric Co-op and the former Columbus Rural Electric Co-op. In 1992, a second successful merger combined Adams-Columbia with the former Waushara County Electric Co-op, and the present-day Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op was born.

Today, we are the largest electric co-op in the state, providing service to over 32,000 members in 12 central Wisconsin counties.

With an office in Friendship, Pardeeville, and Wautoma, and a workforce of nearly 80 employees, we're proud to stick to our roots by continuing to deliver safe, reliable electricity to our members-owners.



\$3.8 MILLION REFUNDED TO MEMBERS

The board of directors recently approved refunding \$3.8 million in patronage capital to members. If you had electric service with us from 2004 - 2006, keep an eye out on your November electric bill for your credit. If your refund is over \$250, a check may be mailed.

Remember, there are two main parts to patronage capital; allocations (your piece of the co-op pie) and refunds to members. Watch our video about patronage capital to get the scoop on how it all works and how it impacts every member. Visit our website at www.acecwi.com/news-information/patronage-cap to watch the video, or scan the QR code.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 12 & NOVEMBER 14

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 may schedule an appointment to meet with John at our Friendship office as well.

NOVEMBER 1

Deadline to submit STEM Grant applications. Encourage educators in our service area to apply!

ENERGY ASSISTANCE



As we approach the heating season, some members may need help with their electric bills. If you need assistance, please contact the agency in your county:

- Adams County (608) 339-6767
- Columbia County (608) 742-4088
- Dane County (608) 267-8601
- Dodge County (920) 887-7990
- Green Lake County (920) 294-4070
- Marquette County (608) 297-3124
- Portage County (715) 344-5999
- Sauk County (608) 356-8887
- Waupaca County (715) 258-6820
- Waushara County (920) 787-1830
- Wood County (715) 421-8659

For more details and helpful resources, visit www.acecwi.com/billing/energy-assistance.

MONITOR YOUR ENERGY USAGE



Are you ready to start taking a deeper dive into your energy usage? It's typical for electric bills to increase in the winter months for a variety of reasons like shorter days, cooler temperatures, and holiday gatherings.

Stay ahead of the game by monitoring your energy usage in the SmartHub app! Check out the daily usage feature to monitor your usage and see when you're using the most energy each day. You can also compare your usage to last month or last year and see how the weather plays a role in your usage too.



Download the SmartHub app on your mobile device in the App Store or Google Play Store to get started with exploring your energy usage today.

CHRISTMAS CARD COLORING CONTEST

HEY KIDS!

Color your own Christmas cookies for Santa for a chance to have your artwork featured on ACEC's Christmas card this year. To download a coloring sheet, visit our website at www.acecwi.com/coloring-contest, or give us a call at (800) 831-8629 to have coloring sheets mailed.

CONTEST DETAILS:

The winner will receive a prize package in the mail. By submitting colorings, you acknowledge that your child's submission may be used in ACEC marketing materials. The deadline to submit colorings is Monday, October 31.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Coloring sheets may be mailed to **ACEC, ATTN: Marketing, P.O. Box 70, Friendship, WI 53934**. Coloring sheets may also be submitted on our website by uploading a photo of the coloring sheet.

We can't wait to see your creative cookies!



HAPPY CO-OP MONTH!

Did you know your electric co-op is guided by seven co-op principles? Learn what makes your electric co-op so special and different from other utilities by reviewing them below.

1 Voluntary & Open Membership

We don't have rules that say who can and can't join our membership. We allow any person to be a member of our electric co-op, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, age, social, political, or religious beliefs.

2 Democratic Member Control

Your co-op is led by a board of directors, made up of fellow ACEC members, and elected by the membership of the co-op at the Annual Meeting each year.

3 Members' Economic Participation

After paying operating expenses, remaining margins are allocated to the membership based on the amount of their annual electric bills. These margins are called patronage capital and represent your equity in the co-op. Each year a portion of patronage is refunded to current and former members. Patronage capital is special to co-ops as we return excess margins to our members instead of giving them to investors like other utilities do.

4 Autonomy & Independence

Although similar, no two co-ops are exactly the same. Each co-op is operated separately with their own board of directors that make decisions for their members.

5 Education, Training & Information

We value the role education plays on all levels. Employees and board of directors attend trainings to increase their knowledge so they can contribute effectively to the development of the co-op.

Our members also benefit through our scholarship programs, safety presentations in schools, and our STEM Grants available for educators throughout our service area teaching science, technology, engineering, and math.

6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Co-ops have an incredible network and are always willing to lend a helping hand. Whether office staff are exploring new options for a new software, or a major storm hits our service area, we know we can call fellow electric co-ops for help.

Our line crews are great examples of sharing their expertise when other co-ops in the state need mutual aid to restore power.

7 Concern for Community

We believe it's our duty to support the communities we serve and live in. We offer and participate in a variety of co-op programs like Toys for Tots, Stuff the Bus, Operation Round-Up, and more.



**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

Website
www.acecwi.com

Follow us on social media
[@ACECWI](https://twitter.com/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

Tired of waiting for your bill to come in the mail? Enroll in paperless billing with SmartHub.



SAFETY MESSAGE

It is estimated that more than 30,000 non-fatal electrical shock accidents occur each year. Review these tips to avoid becoming a part of these statistics:

- Plugs: Never force them into outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.
- Cords: Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or placed in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors, or other objects.
- Extension cords: Use them temporarily only. They are not intended for permanent household wiring.

Briefing of the Board Meeting

July 26, 2022

Board Action Items:

- Approved policies
- Approved the resolution authorizing the amendment and restatement of the Retirement Security and/or 401(k) Pension Plan
- Approved June expense vouchers

View the full meeting summary on our website: www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins



Employee Spotlight

Stacey McManus
Customer Service Representative

Stacey joined the ACEC family earlier this year and is a member of our customer service team.

"I look forward to helping current and future members of the co-op. Everyone at the co-op has been super friendly and helpful."

Thanks for assisting our members, Stacey!

CHICKEN PICCATA

PREP TIME - 20 MINS
TOTAL TIME - 30 MINS

INGREDIENTS

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 2 Tbsp coconut oil
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 Tbsp capers
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- One lemon, juiced
- Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut chicken in half, lengthwise. Pound to 1/4-inch thickness. Season with salt and pepper.
2. In a large pan, heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook the chicken, then remove from the pan.
3. Add olive oil, garlic, and onions to pan. Sauté for two minutes, scraping any chicken drippings.
4. Whisk in the chicken broth, lemon juice, and capers. Simmer for 3 to 5 minutes. Pour sauce over chicken.



Recipe from Keri Seager of Hancock, WI