

SAFETY MESSAGE

Wearing a bright orange vest, keeping your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot, and only pointing at your target. These are some of the safety measures associated with hunting, and electrical safety should be added to the list.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, transformers, or substations. A stray bullet could not only damage equipment, potentially interrupting electric service, but could be deadly to the shooter. Damage to the conductor could drop the line to the ground, causing a possibility of electrocution to those nearby.

Briefing of the Board Meeting

August 29, 2023

Board Action Items:

- Approved policies
- Approved Hoernke as CFC Elections delegate and Skolarz as RESCO voting delegate for NRECA region meeting
- Approved July 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

Michelle Siebert  
Operations Coordinator

Michelle assists our operations department for our Wautoma office and joined ACEC this past summer.

"Everyone on the team is so welcoming and helpful. I enjoy helping the members navigate their new services and the new challenges that arise each day."

Thanks for serving our members, Michelle!

VENISON-BACON WHITE CHILI

INGREDIENTS

- |                                 |                        |  |                               |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| • 6 Tbsp butter                 | • 1 tsp coriander seed | • 15 oz can whole kernel corn, drained               | • 4 oz can green chiles       |
| • 2 tsp cayenne pepper, divided | • 2 tsp salt, divided  | • 15 oz can great northern beans, rinsed and drained | • 1 lb bacon, diced           |
| • 2 Tbsp flour                  | • 1 tsp oregano        | • 4 c chicken broth                                  | • 1 red onion, chopped        |
| • 1 Tbsp cumin                  | • 2 Tbsp brown sugar   | • 1 lb ground venison                                | • 6 cloves garlic, crushed    |
| • 1/2 tsp white pepper          | • 1 tsp cinnamon       |  | • 6 cloves garlic, minced     |
|                                 | • 1/2 tsp nutmeg       |  | • 2 tsp chili powder, divided |

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium-low heat. Stir in flour until smooth. Cook and stir until the flour turns dark, about 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in the white pepper, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg until smooth.
2. Gradually whisk in the chicken broth so that no lumps form. Add the green chiles with their liquid, and the crushed garlic cloves. Season with 1 teaspoon of chili powder, 1 teaspoon of cayenne, cumin, coriander and oregano. Stir in the corn and beans, and bring to a simmer.
3. Place the bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook, turning occasionally until browned. Add the onion and minced garlic; cook and stir for a few minutes. Add the venison, and season with remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt, 1 teaspoon of chili powder, and 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper. Cook, stirring to break the venison to your desired texture, until evenly browned.
4. Transfer the meat mixture to the pot, and simmer over low heat for at least 1 hour, stirring occasionally. You may substitute the venison with ground turkey or beef. Adjust the seasonings to create the level of heat you desire.

Recipe from Edenwood Ranch and Preserve, Ginger Yakes of Wautoma, WI

THE WIRE

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • November 2023



TAILGATES & TOUCHDOWNS

Thanks to the members that stopped by our tailgate events. Attendees got a copy of our 2024 member calendar, enjoyed light snacks, played bags, plinko, and other yard games, and received giveaways and won some prizes for tailgating with us.

Follow us on Facebook @ACECWI for more photos.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 8 & DECEMBER 6

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

NOVEMBER 23 & 24

Our office will be closed these dates in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

DECEMBER 22 & 25

Our office will be closed these dates in observance of the Christmas holiday.



# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 11, 2024 for our annual meeting at Adams-Friendship High School. We'll have a pancake breakfast, co-op booths, giveaways, and more with the meeting to follow in the Fine Arts Center. More details will be published in upcoming issues of *The Wire*.

### ELECTION

Districts 1 and 2 are up for election next year. If you live in one of these districts full time, you have the opportunity to represent your neighbors and fellow co-op members on your board of directors.

Visit our website to view which townships are located in those districts.

### RUN FOR A BOARD SEAT

Your board of directors guide the co-op by reviewing co-op policies, financial status, bylaws, rates, and make decisions that are best for the membership as a whole.

This role is a great way to get involved with the co-op and to represent your community.

### RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES

Directors attend monthly board meetings, participate in education and training opportunities, and engage with members at our events. Additional time may be spent on industry materials and news.

Per diems are paid for meetings, as well as IRS approved mileage.

For more information on how to run for the board of directors, details on director qualifications, and our nomination by petition process, visit our website at [www.acecwi.com/board-of-directors-info](http://www.acecwi.com/board-of-directors-info).

# INCREASING DEMAND RATE

We've received notification from our power supplier, Alliant Energy, that demand rates are anticipated to increase next year due to increased generation infrastructure and operations and maintenance costs.

### WHO IS IMPACTED?

Residential and seasonal members may see an increase in the power cost adjustment. Commercial, industrial, and irrigation members may see an increased demand charge on their bills. Your board of directors will review rate details, and we'll publish more details in the coming issues of *The Wire*.

### WHEN WILL THIS GO INTO EFFECT?

Rates will go into effect January 1, 2024, and will appear on February's bill statement.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO LOWER MY BILL?

We encourage members to visit our website to review energy-saving tips: [www.acecwi.com/energy-saving-tips](http://www.acecwi.com/energy-saving-tips).

# PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIREMENT (REFUND)

Your board of directors approved this year's general retirement (refund) for members who had service with us in 2006, totaling \$3.4 million.

If you had service with us in 2006, keep an eye on your November or December bill statement for a patronage capital bill credit. If your refund is more than \$250, you will receive a check in the mail.

As a co-op, patronage capital is our way of returning margins to our members. Since we're a not-for-profit organization, margins are reviewed by our board of directors and refunded back to our members.

Should you move off of our lines, be sure to keep your mailing address updated with us. Even if you're no longer an ACEC member, patronage capital may still be owed to you and is processed every year. Visit our website to learn more about patronage capital: [www.acecwi.com/news-information/patronage-cap/](http://www.acecwi.com/news-information/patronage-cap/)

# ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

The holiday season is approaching soon, which means our Toys for Tots program is in full swing! We'll once again be collecting donations throughout our service area to support local families in need.

### HOW TO DONATE

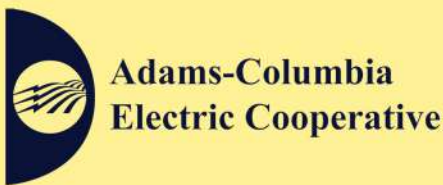
We accept donations of new, unused, and unwrapped toys, books, and stocking stuffers throughout our service area, including our Friendship office. To view the full listing of all donation sites, visit our website at [www.acecwi.com/annual-toy-drive](http://www.acecwi.com/annual-toy-drive).

Monetary donations are accepted online by visiting our Toys for Tots website at [friendship-wi.toysfortots.org](http://friendship-wi.toysfortots.org). Checks can be made payable to **Toys for Tots with Friendship WI** on the memo line. We accept checks at our Friendship office, or you can mail checks to:

ACEC  
Attn: Toys for Tots  
P.O. Box 70  
Friendship, WI 53934



Thanks for helping us make a difference in your local communities!



# 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



## New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web application. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze. Keep an eye out for more details soon!

Enroll in auto pay through your SmartHub account for a worry-free payment option.

