

# The Outlet

March 2022

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*



## YOU'RE INVITED Annual Meeting & Pancake Breakfast

*Celebrating 85 Years of Service*

WHEN:	Saturday, March 26, 2022
WHERE:	Arcadia High School, 756 Raider Dr., Arcadia
AGENDA:	8:00 AM - 9:50 AM Registration and breakfast 10:15 AM Business meeting Director elections Scholarship drawings Door prize drawings

**PRIZES:** Door prize drawings include \$50 electric bill credits, TV, gift baskets, and prizes for kids! Must be present to win.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Fifteen \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to eligible area high school seniors in a random drawing. The student or student's parent or guardian must be present to win.

### Watch the Annual Meeting Virtually

Watch it from your home with your computer or electronic device.

1. Go to our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).
2. Click on the orange Annual Meeting button in the upper right.
3. Click on the YouTube Livestream link.

*Bring a nonperishable food item to donate to local food pantries.*

### Scholarship Applications Due March 15, 2022

Our offices will be closed on April 15, 2022 for Good Friday.

Our annual recycle drive dates are scheduled for May 24, 25, 26, 2022.

### Line worker scholarship

As an electric cooperative, Riverland Energy proudly supports individuals interested in a career as an electrical line worker. REC will award two \$1,000 scholarships to individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker (electrical power distribution) program.

Recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at our annual meeting on Saturday, March 26 in conjunction with our traditional scholarship drawing. The applicant or the applicant's parent or guardian must be present to win.

Applications can be found at your high school or on our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).

**Deadline is March 15, 2022.**



## \$25 Bill Credit Winners

Members who returned their ballots for the District Committee were entered into a drawing for a \$25 credit on their electric bill. The winners include:

Daniel Filla, Independence  
 Cynthia Flury-Stone, Galesville  
 Mark Erickson, Fountain City  
 Paul Schank, Fountain City  
 Gary Fischer, Onalaska  
 Mike Michels, Eleva  
 Curtis Skoyen, Osseo  
 Eric Franson, Strum  
 Richard Schroeder, Whitehall  
 Charles Helwig, Independence

Thanks to everyone who submitted their ballots!



## General Manager's Message

### Keeping the lights on for 85 years



This year we will be celebrating 85 years of service. We have a deep appreciation for our membership and the strong board of directors, leadership, and employees who have helped shaped Riverland Energy along the way.

The formation of the electric cooperative ultimately made the rural way of life easier, from making daily tasks more efficient to simply having light when it would otherwise be dark. That innovative spirit is not only a part of the co-op's past but continues to play a role in the way Riverland Energy operates today.

Throughout the past 85 years, Riverland Energy has built a tradition of providing safe, high quality, and responsive service to nearly 16,000 members in its primary territory of Buffalo, La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties, as well as portions of Jackson, Pepin and Eau Claire Counties.

Our mission has always been to provide safe, high quality, reliable electric service to our members. We continue to hold Riverland Energy to a high standard, which is what our members expect and deserve.

Best regards,

Jerry Sorenson

## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
 Accounting  
 Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2021	2020	2021
KWHS PURCHASED	27,282,315	27,229,926	293,102,182	299,635,391
KWHS SOLD	26,198,009	26,133,989	281,597,939	288,550,401
REVENUE	3,100,024	3,024,249	38,610,036	38,456,936
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,944,939	1,887,224	22,818,615	22,983,007
OTHER EXPENSES	931,770	1,431,006	14,471,142	14,610,982
OPERATING MARGINS	223,315	(293,981)	1,320,279	862,947
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	16,495	8,076	170,197	173,666
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	187,200	226,434	1,145,387	1,415,762
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>427,010</b>	<b>(59,471)</b>	<b>2,635,863</b>	<b>2,452,375</b>

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." ~ Walt Disney

## Home Energy Audit Rebates

A home performance audit is the best way to identify problems and solutions to improve comfort and energy efficiency in your home. The test typically takes a couple of hours and costs about \$350. Have it arranged through Riverland Energy and we'll credit you \$150 of that cost.

In addition, Riverland Energy offers an incentive of up to \$500 for qualified improvements made after a home performance test.

Please visit our website at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com) for a form and qualifications.

## Round up your bill to help others

You have a unique opportunity to make a difference by participating in the Community Cares program. Community Cares is a charitable fundraising program for Riverland Energy Cooperative members to have their electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar in order to benefit and support charitable community organizations within the bounds of our service territory. Sign up through our website or through SmartHub.

## Ballots coming soon

### Online voting also an option

Official election ballots and candidate biographies will be mailed to members in districts 2, 5, and 9. All members in those districts are eligible to vote. Please vote and return your ballot in the provided return envelope.

Members in those districts will also have the option to vote online through SmartHub. Online and mail-in ballots will be accepted from March 10 – March 24, 2022. You can only vote once. The first vote received will be the one that counts.



## MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill. If you would like to help a member by paying \$50, \$100, \$200 or any amount desired towards their electric bill, please send a check with the member's name, address and phone number.

Contact our billing department at 800-411-9115 for more details.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Need help with heating costs?  
Contact your local agency:

### Trempealeau County:

**Trempealeau Co. Social Services:**  
715-538-2311

**Western Wisconsin E.O.C.:**  
715-985-2391

### Buffalo County:

**Buffalo County Human Services:**  
608-685-4412

### La Crosse County:

**La Crosse Co. Human Services:**  
608-784-4357

**Salvation Army:** 608-782-6126  
**CouleeCap:** 608-782-4877



## Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit



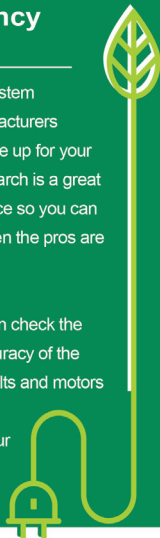
Submit a photo of **“Hometown Pride”** for this month's photo contest before March 25. The photo that has the most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit! Each member who submits a photo will be put into a drawing at the end of the contest for a chance to win a \$250 electric bill credit. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit a photo and vote.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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608-323-3381

**Outages & Emergencies**  
Call 800-927-6206,  
24 hours a day

[www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)



## Managing and paying your bill has never been easier!

To make managing and paying your bill easier, Riverland offers SmartHub, an online application to help you manage your account 24/7.

With SmartHub, you can:

- **make a payment**
- **check your electric usage and view your usage history**
- **notify us of account issues**
- **receive email or text alerts**
- **report an outage**
- **make updates/changes to your account**

SmartHub is available in both mobile apps and a web version to give members secure access whether at home, at work, or on the go. Members with smart phones or tablet devices can download the SmartHub app from iTunes or the Android Marketplace. (Use search term “NISC SmartHub” or scan the QR code at right.)



For more information about SmartHub or other programs, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com).