

The Outlet

January 2021

A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative

Annual Meeting date set for March 27

Riverland Energy Annual Meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, March 27 at the Arcadia High School. Watch for details in future publications.

Scholarship requirements changed

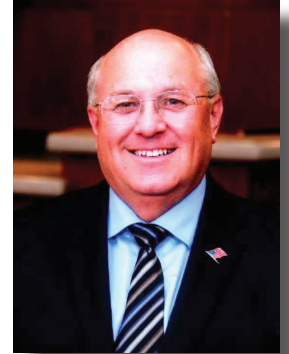
Due to the current pandemic, we will not require scholarship applicants to attend our annual meeting. We will be drawing scholarship recipients in a random drawing on Friday, March 5, at 12:00 p.m. Applicants do not have to be viewing to win. Recipients will be notified and will be published on our website and social media sites. Application deadline is March 1.

Community Cares grant application due Feb. 20

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through its Community Cares program. Funding for the Foundation is donated by members of the co-op who round their monthly electric bill up to the next even dollar amount. To apply for a grant, download the application on our website. Deadline to apply is Feb. 20.

Paudler Honored with 2020 ACE Award

The Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association announced that David Paudler, Riverland Energy board president, has been selected as the 2020 recipient of the annual Ally of Cooperative Electrification (ACE) award. The ACE award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the electric cooperative industry.



David Paudler has served on the Riverland Energy Cooperative Board for 11 years, including three as board president. He has also served for two terms on Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) board, including serving as chairman from 2015–2019.

“To best describe Dave, I would say he is quietly fierce and has a work ethic that is second to none,” said General Manager Jerry Sorenson. “His work in the background on many projects laid the groundwork for them to be successful and completed in a way to shine the spotlight on many rather than himself. His dedication to applying the cooperative principles is demonstrated in everything he does as a local and state-wide director and in his national level representation.”

Niles Berman of Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson agreed, saying, “To honor Dave with the ACE Award will do honor to WECA and its members. Dave has demonstrated in so many ways, over so many years, his commitment to cooperatives and his effectiveness as a leader of them.”

Beth Ede, former Riverland Board director, recalled Paudler’s leadership as a colleague in her nomination submission, writing, “His vigilant and consistent positivity allowed me to feel supported as I asked more questions than anyone should be allowed and made me find a comfort in challenging situations for the betterment of REC and cooperatives in general.”

Paudler is also a community leader, serving on the Onalaska Town Board for 18 years including four years as chair. He also served as trustee on the Holmen Area Foundation, and Holmen Community Center board. Paudler holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He is retired from GCS Software, Inc., where he was president. He and his wife, Elaine, have two grown children.

Congratulations, Dave!

2021 REBATES

Riverland Energy continues to offer several types of rebates for residential, agriculture, and business accounts, including custom options. Forms are available on our website, in our offices, or by contacting the cooperative.

There are eligibility criteria that must be met in order to qualify for rebates.

Rebates include:

- Home Performance Testing and Upgrade Rebates
- Appliance and Appliance Recycling Rebates
- Lighting Rebates
- HVAC and Geothermal System Rebates
- Water Heater Rebates
- Commercial and Ag Efficiency Incentives

More information about our rebate program can be found on our website by visiting riverlandenergy.com.

Annual Meeting Plans

The board of directors set March 27, 2021, for the cooperative's annual meeting at the Arcadia High School in Arcadia. It is our hope that we will be able to meet in person for this annual event, but with the current pandemic, things are always uncertain. We know our members look forward to the annual meeting each year, and we are hopeful we can provide a traditional one for you. We will plan for a pancake breakfast at 8:00 a.m., with the business meeting at 10:15. Our back up plan would be to just conduct a business meeting with no breakfast or activities, or postpone it to a later date. Please keep an eye on our publications for any changes to this meeting.



Prior to the annual meeting, we hold district meetings in accordance with your cooperative's bylaws presenting the opportunity to place names on the ballot for director positions. The fact that we as cooperative members have the right to select our cooperative directors is what sets us apart from other electric utilities.

The district meeting also serves as a prelude to the upcoming annual meeting on March 27, 2021. The meeting offers members the opportunity to learn more about important issues facing the electric cooperative. Those attending hear the financial position of the co-op, work activities that were completed in 2020, and activities planned in 2021.

Best regards,

Jerry Sorenson

OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,
Accounting
Supervisor

	Monthly		Year-to-date	
	Nov. 2019	Nov. 2020	2019	2020
KWHS PURCHASED	25,618,947	23,406,032	265,043,033	265,819,867
KWHS SOLD	24,306,269	22,466,310	254,478,214	255,399,930
REVENUE	3,277,935	2,779,115	34,492,093	35,510,012
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	1,939,726	1,688,939	21,338,193	20,873,676
OTHER EXPENSES	1,098,036	1,029,140	12,631,365	13,539,371
OPERATING MARGINS	240,173	61,036	522,535	1,096,965
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	7,602	14,925	129,692	153,702
CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS	44,032	52,188	752,155	958,188
TOTAL MARGINS	291,807	128,149	1,404,382	2,208,855

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Failure is another steppingstone to greatness." - Oprah Winfrey

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: 608-634-4575

2021 Scholarships

Application Deadline is March 1, 2021

Traditional and At-Large Scholarships

Riverland Energy will award 30 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parent or guardian resides in the Riverland Energy service territory. Two eligible graduating seniors from each of the following schools will be selected: Alma, Arcadia, Blair-Taylor, C-FC, Durand, Eleva-Strum, G-E-T, Gilmanton, Holmen, Independence, Mondovi, Onalaska, Osseo-Fairchild, Whitehall. In addition, two at-large scholarships will be awarded to an eligible senior who lives in our service territory, but doesn't attend any of the schools listed above.

The recipients will be selected in a random drawing via Facebook Live on Friday, March 5 at 12:00 p.m. Applicants do not have to be viewing to win.

Line Worker Scholarships

Two \$1,000 Line Worker Scholarship

will be awarded to individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical line worker program. The applicant must be a senior in high school. The applicant can apply for both the general scholarship and the line worker scholarship, but will only be eligible to receive one.

The recipients will be selected in a random drawing via Facebook Live on Friday, March 5 at 12:00 p.m. Applicants do not have to be viewing to win.

Non-traditional Scholarship

Three \$750 non-traditional scholarships will be awarded to non-traditional students at schools of higher learning. These will be awarded to those returning to a university or technical college after spending a minimum of 3 years in the work place or raising a family. To be eligible, you or your spouse must be a member in "good standing" and a bona fide resident of the Riverland Energy Cooperative service territory.



Recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the Riverland Energy Board of Director's meeting from all completed and verified applications.

Applications can be submitted online; e-mailed to balesch@riverlandenergy.com or mailed to: Riverland Energy Cooperative, P.O. Box 277, Arcadia, WI 54612. Applications can be found on our website, at any of our offices, or through the high school guidance counselor.

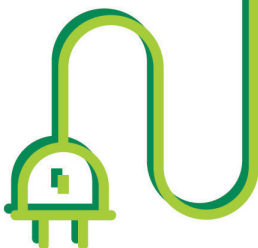
The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source:
www.nrel.gov



Electric co-ops create CHARGE EV

A group of 29 electric co-ops, including Riverland Energy, has created a regional electric vehicle (EV) charging network across Wisconsin, Illinois,



Iowa and Minnesota named CHARGE EV, LLC. The network includes over 30 Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations. The co-ops want to ensure that when EV drivers leave their co-op service area they know other EV charging stations are available throughout the Midwest powered by electric co-ops. The group of co-ops is planning for future growth in EVs, and wants to alleviate "range anxiety," which is the concern some people have about traveling in an EV without a place to charge their vehicle.

The CHARGE EV infrastructure is just the start as the group plans for additional investments in the EV market including member education on installing home chargers and encouraging members to test drive EVs.

Charger locations and other information can be found at www.charge.coop.

BE ENERGY SMART

DOWNLOAD THE SMARTHUB APP

- Report Outages
- Monitor Energy Use
- Pay Bills
- Contact Us

SmartHub is FREE for your iOS or Android device. Download the app from iTunes or your iPhone App Store; for Android, visit Google Play.



RIVERLAND
Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Phone:
800-411-9115
608-323-3381

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

www.riverlandenergy.com