

# The Outlet

February 2021

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## 2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 at the Arcadia High School. Tentatively, a pancake breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., and the business meeting will start at 10:15 a.m. This is subject to change due to the current health situation.

## Director Positions

Riverland Energy Board of Director Districts 2, 3, 4 and 8 are up for election this year. If you reside in one of these districts and are interested in running for a director position, you can let one of the District Committee members know. The list of the District Committee representatives can be found on our website.

## Update your phone number

If you have not provided your cell phone number to the co-op in the past, please contact us at 800-411-9115 to do so. You can also update your phone number through SmartHub or through our website.

## View outages on our live outage map

You can access our outage map to view current outages we are working to restore. You can view this by clicking on "Outage Map" at the top of our home page at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com).

## Community Cares grant applications due Feb. 20

Riverland Energy provides financial support to community programs through our Community Cares program.



Community Cares is a grant program made possible by the generosity of the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative. Participating members voluntarily contribute by allowing their monthly electric bill to be rounded up so that their change can help make an impact through the efforts of local nonprofit groups working to make our communities a better place to live and work.

Grants are awarded by a board of directors. A list of qualifications and guidelines can be found at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com) or at one of our offices.

**Applications for the Community Cares grant are due Feb. 20, 2021.**

## 2021 Scholarships

If you're a senior in high school and you reside on Riverland Energy's lines, you may be eligible for our \$1,000 scholarship drawing.

Two individuals from each school in our service area will be selected in a random drawing on Friday, March 5 at 12:00 p.m. on Facebook Live.

Applicants do not have to be viewing to win.



Scholarships available include: traditional scholarships, at-large scholarships, nontraditional scholarships, and line worker scholarships.

For guidelines and applications, visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com) or contact your guidance counselor.

**Deadline is March 1, 2021.**

## 2021 Work Plan

Our goals for 2021 are driven by your feedback on member surveys, the strategic plan, and focus on improving our value to you and our community. Our number one priority continues to be the delivery of reliable electricity.

In 2021, we will upgrade and maintain a reliable electric system for you. Our 2021 work plan includes:

- › Clearing trees and brush from the right-of-way on Lookout, Frenchville, Mondovi, and Buffalo City substations
- › Line inspections in Center-ville, Arcadia, Pleasantville, and Gilmanton
- › Underground cabinet inspections of 1,700 cabinets
- › Testing and treating 3,600 poles
- › Installing 100 OCR's

## General Manager's Message



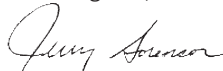
The District Committee will meet this month to elect candidates to run for director. The committee will review the operations of the cooperative and express their thoughts and ideas regarding the future of our organization. The list of those attending can be found on our website. I would encourage you to take the time to express any thoughts or concerns that you may have regarding the electric cooperative to one of those persons so that they may bring them forward to the committee.

New this year, the director election will be a “hybrid” election. This means that members will still get a paper ballot, as well as the new online option and the ability to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. The first vote received will be the one that counts. Online and mail-in ballots will be accepted from March 10 – March 26, 2021.

We are hopeful that this will increase voter turnout, appeal to younger voters and eliminate concerns from busy members who have long desired another voting option. In the long run, we hope to lower costs in a few years if we feel like paper ballots can be eliminated or at least reduced to individual “as needed” requests.

I encourage everyone to take the time to review the candidate information in the annual report implemented in the March *Wisconsin Energy News* magazine. After that, please vote. In the 84-year history of this cooperative, it has never been easier to cast your vote and make your voice heard.

Best regards,

  
Jerry Sorenson

# BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS AND POWER OUTAGES

**Report outages on SmartHub or call 800-927-6206**

**VIEW OUR LIVE OUTAGE MAP on our website at  
[www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)**

# Voting Information

## Elections to be held for four board districts

As a member of Riverland Energy Cooperative, you have the opportunity to elect a director for your district to represent your interest on the board of directors. This year, members in districts 2, 3, 4 and 8 will be able to vote. You have the option of voting by mail, voting online, or voting in person at the annual meeting.

District 2 seat will be for one year; districts 3, 4, and 8 will be elected for four-year terms. District 2 was vacant due to a resignation in 2020 and a new director was appointed by the board.

### VOTE BY MAIL

Each member in Director Districts 2, 3, 4 and 8 will receive a mail ballot for the director(s) up for election in that district. The ballot will contain the name of the candidates nominated at the District Committee meeting or by petition along with candidate biographies. Simply complete the ballot using the instructions listed and return as directed in the postage-paid envelope provided with your ballot. **Please do not bring ballots to the office or return with your bill payment.** Ballots must be received by our voting firm by March 26, 2021.

### ONLINE VOTING THROUGH SMARTHUB

Login to your SmartHub account and click "VOTE NOW" to vote. You must have a SmartHub account. You can sign up for a SmartHub account on our website. Internet votes will be accepted until March 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m

If the co-op holds an annual meeting, elections can also be done in person at the meeting. You cannot vote more than once. The first vote received will be the one that counts.



### Director Districts:

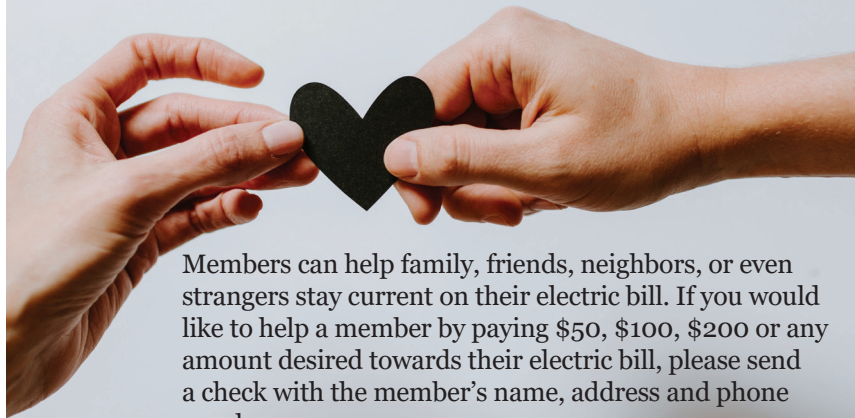
**District 2:** Buffalo City, Towns of Alma, Belvidere and Nelson, and a portion of the City of Alma.

**District 3:** Towns of Cross, Buffalo, Milton, Waumandee, Lincoln, Montana and Glen-coe, and a portion of Fountain City.

**District 4:** Towns of Albion, Union, Sumner, Chimney Rock, Hale, Burnside, Lincoln and Pigeon in Trempealeau County; Towns of Pleasant Valley, Clear Creek, Otter Creek in Eau Claire County; and the Towns of Garfield, Northfield, Franklin, and Curran in Jackson County.

**District 8:** Town of Onalaska, and portions of Towns of Holland and Hamilton.

## 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:**  
608-785-5582  
**Salvation Army:** 608-782-6126  
**CouleCap:** 608-634-4575

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source:  
[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



## 2021 RESIDENTIAL REBATES

For qualifications, forms, and a complete list of our rebates please visit our web site at [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com).

### ENERGY STAR Appliances & Recycling Rebates

Clothes Washer (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Clothes Dryer (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Dishwasher (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Dehumidifier (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Refrigerator (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Freezer (Must be ENERGY STAR)	\$25
Inductive Range	\$25
Heat pump clothes dryer	\$50
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling	\$25
Room A/C Unit Recycling	\$25

### Electric Water Heater Rebates

75-99 gallons (Uniform Energy Factor .90 or greater)	\$150
Over 100 gallons (Uniform Energy Factor .85 or greater)	\$300
Heat pump water heater (integrated)	\$300
Solar storage w/electric auxiliary tank 75-99 gal.	\$150
Solar storage w/electric auxiliary tank 100+ gal.	\$300

### Lighting Rebates

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamp	\$.50/lamp
Occupancy Sensor	\$5 each
LED Fixture	\$.50/800 lumens

### HVAC Rebates

Heat Pump- Air Source & MiniSplit	\$250/ton
Heat Pump- Geothermal	\$500/ton
New furnace w/efficient ECM Blower Motor	\$35/unit

### Energy Audits

Home energy audit	\$150
Implementation	up to \$500



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Headquarters:**  
N28988 State Rd 93  
P.O. Box 277  
Arcadia, WI 54612

**Branch Office:**  
1800 Granary St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

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

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

