

## SAFETY MESSAGE

There's really no other way to say it: Trimming branches or limbs near power lines can kill. If you look the other way, get distracted, or lose your footing, you could inadvertently make contact with a power line. You might think you have a steady hand, but making a wrong move could be the last thing you do.

Only OSHA-certified line clearance workers are authorized to trim near power lines. So when hiring a tree trimmer to trim near power lines in your yard or on your property, make sure the person you hire is certified to do so. Call us with any questions about trees and power lines at (800) 831-8629.

### Briefing of the Board Meeting

December 17, 2024

#### Board Action Items:

- Approved audit engagement letter
- Approved October GM expenses
- Approved resolution of appreciation for John West
- Approved October board vouchers

View the full meeting summary on our website: [www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins](http://www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins)

## Go green for ST. PATRICK'S DAY



#### Replace your HVAC filter

Generally, these need to be replaced every three months, but factors such as having pets, climate, and the age of your system can cause this to vary.



#### Install a smart thermostat

A smart thermostat can add convenience, generate savings, and help you go greener.



#### Analyze your energy bill

Review past bills to better understand your energy consumption patterns.



#### Upgrade to energy-efficient appliances

Look for appliances that are ENERGY STAR-certified.



#### Explore rebates

Visit [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com) to learn about incentives available for your home or business.



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • March 2025

## STAY CONNECTED WITH SMARTHUB

SmartHub is our online portal for members to access their electric account. Many members use SmartHub purely to pay their bill, but did you know SmartHub offers more than a payment platform?

Log in to your SmartHub account today to explore your energy usage, billing and payment options, sign up for text, phone, and email notifications for power outages, and much more. Don't have a SmartHub account yet? Register at [acecwi.smarthub.coop](http://acecwi.smarthub.coop), or give us a call and our customer service representatives will walk you through the process.



Billing &  
Payment Details



Monitor  
Energy Usage



Power  
Outage Alerts



Paperless  
Billing

In addition to the features above, SmartHub also offers auto pay enrollment, prepaid billing, enrolling in Operation Round-Up, locating retailers for our pay-by-cash option, and more.

Get started with SmartHub at [acecwi.smarthub.coop](http://acecwi.smarthub.coop)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 26

Visit our Wautoma office from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. or our Pardeeville office from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. to chat with our general manager, Jon, for discussion days.

### APRIL 1

Voting for your board of directors opens.

### APRIL 15

Deadline to submit applications for Operation Round-Up.

### MAY 7

Join us for our Annual Meeting at our Friendship office.

## DENNIS' ZUPPA TOSCANA

PREP TIME - 30-40 MINS | COOK TIME - 10 MINS OR UNTIL PASTA IS AL DENTE

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb ground Italian sausage
- 1 medium onion
- 3-4 garlic cloves, sliced
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper
- 8 c chicken broth
- 6 c baby spinach, chopped
- 3 c heavy cream
- ½ lb bow tie pasta
- salt and pepper to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a dutch oven, cook Italian sausage. Add onion, garlic, and crushed red pepper. Sauté until sausage is cooked and onion is tender.
2. Add chicken broth and cook until just starting to boil.
3. Slowly add heavy cream while stirring constantly. Bring to a boil and add spinach.
4. Add pasta and cook until al dente.

Recipe from Dennis Klasinski of Nekoosa, WI



## NESTING PLATFORM FOR OSPREYS

Birds will build nests almost anywhere, including high-voltage substations and power line structures. Nests near high voltage areas can be dangerous if sticks or other debris make contact between power line phases.

Crews installed a special nesting platform at our Montello substation for ospreys. The platform was supplied by American Transmission Company (ATC), our transmission service provider. Ospreys tend to build nests near utility poles and equipment because they are tall structures and provide a sturdy foundation for their nest. As a part of ACEC's environmental efforts, crews provided a safe area for ospreys to call home.





# Join us for the Annual Meeting!

All members are invited to join us for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at our Friendship office, located at 401 E Lake St in Friendship. Registration will open at 4:00 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. Stay up to date at [www.acecwi.com/annual-meeting](http://www.acecwi.com/annual-meeting).

## How to Vote

Members can request an absentee ballot or cast their eVote through SmartHub starting April 1. Members interested in voting in person can do so at the Annual Meeting from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Exercise your right as a member to vote for your directors! Our second cooperative principle is Democratic Member Control. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

## Director Candidates

Candidates running for director seats have each been asked to submit a short biography. Candidates have provided their contact information if you would like to reach out with additional questions. *Note that no edits have been made to the candidate's submissions.*



DISTRICT 3

**Aaron Hoernke** | [ahoernke@acecwi.com](mailto:ahoernke@acecwi.com) | (920) 379-9553

I appreciated the honor to serve on the ACEC Board of Directors and look forward to my 3rd term. My career as a Financial Advisor continues to add value to the board room discussions as we have a diverse board with the purpose to continue to successfully lead ACEC into the future. We will continue to keep our members' interests our first priority as we provide safe, reliable and affordable energy.

As things continue to change we will look to adapt to the issues that arise from things like increased use of EVs and renewables. With the wonderful staff we have at ACEC, I am sure our future will be bright.



DISTRICT 5

**Jon Ebert** | [jjebert54@centurylink.net](mailto:jjebert54@centurylink.net) | (920) 295-2766

My name is Jon Ebert and I would like to represent our membership on the board of directors for another three year term. I was employed by ACEC for 36 years, retired for nine years, and have been a board of director now for six years. My wife Jan and I still reside in Marquette county where we have been all of our lives. During my tenure on the board we have most recently been involved with making decisions regarding higher than normal costs for wholesale power, transformers, and line materials.

With the recent administration change in January there may be a completely different look at how our cooperative will adjust to the upcoming years ahead. I have complete confidence in our staff at ACEC and our current board's wisdom to guide us through these years which I would like to continue to be involved.

I would appreciate the opportunity to represent you our members for another term, and will do my best making decisions in the best interest of our membership.

## ENROLL TO WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT!

When our members come together, collectively your spare change makes a big difference through our Operation Round-Up program. By rounding your electric bill up to the next dollar amount to donate your spare change, you can help support fire departments, food pantries, community centers, and other applicants.

**For a limited time, members enrolled in Operation Round-Up have a chance at winning a \$25 bill credit. We'll chose two winners; one newly enrolled member and one existing enrolled member. Enroll by April 15 for your chance to win!**

The most a member could contribute in a year is \$11.88. If you're interested in donating to Operation Round-Up beyond a monthly round-up, checks can be made payable to Adams-Columbia Community Fund and mailed to PO Box 70, Friendship, WI 53934. Learn more at [www.acecwi.com/operation-round-up](http://www.acecwi.com/operation-round-up).



### HOW TO ENROLL:

- Visit our Friendship office
- Check the box on your pay stub
- Call us at (800) 831-8629
- Enroll through SmartHub

## Secure Wisconsin's Energy Future

**As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-op, we are committed to keeping the lights on at a price our members can afford. But lengthy and expensive federal regulations could cause years of delays and cost Wisconsin millions.**

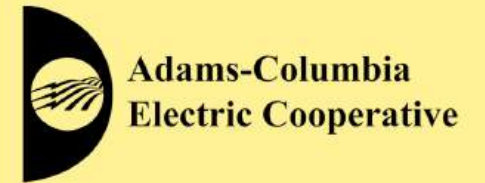


### CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Visit [maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?lat=&lon=&address=](https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?lat=&lon=&address=) to enter your address. It will show you who your elected officials are for your senate and assembly districts. Contact them with the message below:

*As a member of my electric cooperative and your constituent, please support the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) legislation. State oversight and bidding requirements ensure that projects will be both necessary and cost-effective. When my electric co-op's transmission provider is a project partner, I benefit from their participation. Investment returns will be shared with my not-for-profit co-op to keep my electric rates lower when transmission lines are built.*

Learn more about the Right of First Refusal at [www.acecwi.com/rofr](http://www.acecwi.com/rofr).



## CONTACT US

Customer Service & Billing  
(800) 831-8629

Outages & Payments  
(855) 957-3881

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

Have you enrolled your account(s) to receive text notifications about power outages? Log in to SmartHub to get started.

