

Annual Meeting Issue

We invite all members to join us at our 38th Annual Meeting next month. This is your opportunity to vote for your board of directors and to learn more about your electric cooperative. For more details on the Annual Meeting, visit our website at www.acecwi.com/annual-meeting.

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MEETING DETAILS:

- Wednesday, May 7, 2025
- Friendship Office (401 E Lake St)
- Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.
- Business meeting starts at 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA:

- Call Meeting to Order
- National Anthem
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Safety Message
- Report of Registration
- Notice of Meeting & Proof of Mailing
- Year in Review
- Election Results
- Adjournment



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

APRIL 18

Visit our Wautoma office from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. or our Pardeeville office from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. for discussion days and chat with our general manager, Jon.

MAY 1

Deadline to submit applications for our STEM Grant program.

MAY 6 @ NOON

Deadline to cast absentee or evote ballots.

MAY 7

Join us for the Annual Meeting at our Friendship office.

Director Candidates & Voting Options



Aaron Hoernke | aahoernke@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.



Jon Ebert | 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.

ABSENTEE

Opens: April 1

Closes: May 6

at 12:00 p.m.



Absentee voting is a great option if you aren't able to attend our annual meeting on May 7, or if you don't have the opportunity to vote online. There are three ways to request an absentee ballot:

1. Give us a call at (800) 831-8629.
2. Email Stacey McManus at smcmanus@acecwi.com.
3. Fill out the online request form on our website at www.acecwi.com/absentee-ballot-request-form.
4. Ballots must be returned to our office by Tuesday, May 6 at noon.

EVOTE

Opens: April 1

Closes: May 6

at 12:00 p.m.



If you don't already have a SmartHub account, now is the time! Visit www.acecwi.com to log in or create a SmartHub account.

1. Log in to your SmartHub account (desktop or mobile) and click the "Vote Now" button.
2. Follow the prompts to cast your vote. The voting site will walk you through the process.
3. Confirm your choices and click "Cast Vote." A confirmation page will show that your vote has been submitted.

IN-PERSON

Wednesday

May 7

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Visit registration to receive your ballot and cast your ballot at our voting booth. Cast your ballot before 5:00 p.m.

Note:

Ballots must be turned in at our voting booth before the annual meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.

No voting will take place during the annual meeting. Election results will be announced during the meeting.

Every year the Rules Committee reviews the meeting rules and voting procedures to establish ground rules for how to conduct the annual meeting. Procedures are in place for how to vote for director candidates and any new business that may arise. These meeting rules and voting procedures were approved by the Rules Committee on February 13, 2025.

Meeting Rules

1. Except as specifically modified below the meeting will be conducted in accordance with ACEC Bylaws, Board Policies #2-18 and #2-27, and the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
3. Only members and duly registered guests will be recognized by the Chair; each person so recognized must give his or her name and show their voting card. Questions and comments should relate to Cooperative matters of general concern to the membership and not the member's particular account.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Chair, those recognized are to limit their questions and comments to three minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
5. Questions and comments from members and duly registered guests will be in order during old and new business sessions, and at the conclusion of the officer reports if invited.
6. No resolution affecting Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative may be submitted by any member unless written copies were received by the Cooperative by February 4th, 2025 in accordance with the prior notification to the membership to permit review by the Rules Committee, and its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.
7. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the Annual Meeting. Invited Legislators may distribute government issued items such as Highway Maps or similar information. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the Cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the Cooperative supports or opposes any resolution or candidate for director.
8. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

Voting Procedures

1. Each member present and qualified to vote at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for each of the director positions for which a director is to be elected, provided that member has not voted electronically or by absentee ballot prior to the meeting.
2. Each member will be given a voting card (one card per membership), which the member should hold up to be recognized or to designate his or her vote as directed by the Chair.
3. Once cast, an electronic or absentee vote will not be discarded in favor of another voting method.
4. In the event there is only one nominee who is qualified and willing to run for election for any position, election for that position may be by unanimous consent, by voice vote, or by show of hands or voting card at the meeting.
5. Only the Chairperson is authorized to vote electronically on behalf of a corporation, association, board or body politic.
6. With the consent of the Chair, balloting may be closed at the time the meeting is called to order. Counting of absentee ballots may begin prior to the time the meeting is called to order.

General Manager & Board Chair Report

SOLAR UPDATE

We have acquired 14 acres of land adjacent to our Friendship office, the first step in exploring a solar project. Requests for proposals were sent to several contractors, and we have settled on one. Recent administration changes have currently frozen the potential grant fund options. Management is evaluating the financial feasibility of the project. Whether or not we choose to pursue solar, acquiring additional land was prudent as it will allow us to expand our facilities in the future.



(Left) Aaron Hoernke, Board Chair &
(Right) Jon Congdon, General Manager

NEW SUBSTATIONS

Our engineering team worked diligently to prepare for the construction of two new substations in the coming years. Starting this spring crews will begin construction on our Dixie substation, located in Lincoln Township in Adams County. This substation is expected to be in service this fall. In 2026, crews will begin construction of our new Colburn substation, located along the boundary between Colburn and Big Flats Townships in Adams County. We plan to energize this new substation in the summer of 2027. These substations will support the additional energy needs as well as improve resiliency for several neighboring substations. We have added approximately 400 new services each year over the last six years, driving our need for additional grid infrastructure.

RELIABILITY REMAINS PRIORITY

We continue to provide safe, reliable service for our members, and have placed in the upper quartile when comparing reliability statistics with other utilities. The undergrounding of our distribution system for decades has been a driving force in improved reliability. Not only do we continue to maintain a reliable system for our members, but our transmission company aligns with the same goals and values. American Transmission Company (ATC) will be doing a project in northern Adams County and southwest Portage County. This project includes updating their Saratoga substation along with building a new transmission line to connect the line feeding our Badger West, Arrowhead, and Sherwood substations. These projects will strengthen our system and allow for more flexibility in maintenance and responding to outages.

RATES

After seven years of stable rates for our residential members, it was necessary to make an increase effective January 1st of 2025. Cost-saving measures throughout the co-op and our investment in the West Riverside Energy Center in Beloit helped support us through the economic pressures over the past seven years. Impacts from the pandemic created supply chain issues and increased material costs that unfortunately haven't subsided. Our board of directors and team of employees are always evaluating and looking for opportunities to keep costs in check while maintaining reliability. To learn more about our rates, visit our website.

OPERATION ROUND-UP \$1 MILLION MILESTONE

We'd first like to thank our members who contribute to our Operation Round-Up program each month by rounding up your bill. Your spare change over the years allowed the Operation Round-Up board of directors to award over \$1,000,000 since program inception. Directors met on October 28, 2024, to review applications and surpassed this milestone. We'd like to recognize Nancy Akkerman, Vicki Deltgen, Deb Gerzmehle, Evan Henthorne, John Jarvis, Ellen Kirschbaum, Gale Neef, Kristen Skolarz, Bill Taylor, and all previous Operation Round-Up directors for their efforts in awarding grants to individuals and organizations in our communities over the years.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Our member advisory group shifted to a different style and format last June. To reach more members and learn about what topics members are interested in, we created Bright Ideas. Bright Ideas is an online survey available on the homepage of our website.

Throughout the year, we compile results to determine what topics are the most important to members, which drives the information we publish on our Bright Ideas webpage. In 2024, we had 245 members engage with us through Bright Ideas. Share your feedback with us at www.acecwi.com/bright-ideas.



STAY IN THE KNOW

Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Keeping your contact information current benefits you in multiple ways.

- Faster outage reporting and response
- Timely alerts about planned outages
- Smoother customer service interactions
- Improved access to member benefits and programs
- Access to text, email, and phone notifications through SmartHub

Ensure your phone number, email address, and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

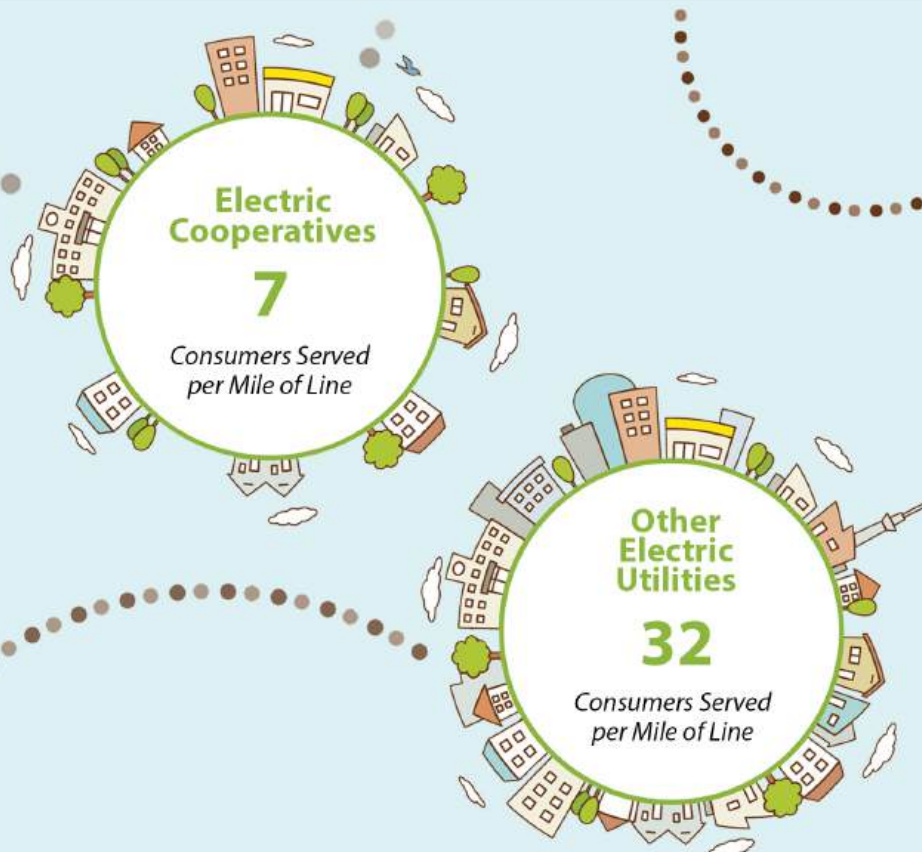
To update the contact information on your account, give us a call at (800) 831-8629. Our customer service team is ready to assist.



ELECTRIC CO-OP SERVICE DENSITY *compared to* OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Electric cooperatives maintain more power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities.

Even though we serve fewer consumers per mile of line, we will always go the extra mile for our members.



Statement of Operations

WHAT WE TOOK IN	2024	2023
Operating Revenue	80,863,501	82,961,291

WHAT WE PAID OUT	2024	2023
Power Production Expense (Riverside)	(7,137,827)	(6,748,502)
Cost of Purchased Power	52,736,616	56,843,005
Distribution Expense	8,045,431	7,792,164
Customer Service & Sales Expense	2,094,760	1,919,802
Administrative & General Expense	3,861,948	3,410,580
Depreciation Expense	10,294,793	9,819,561
Taxes	1,244,568	1,160,299
Interest on Long-Term Debt	5,956,058	5,278,830
Total Operating Expenses	77,096,346	79,475,739
Net Operating Margins	3,767,154	3,485,552

WHAT WE HAVE LEFT	2024	2023
Interest Income	363,774	403,099
Non-Operating Income	3,130,616	2,072,367
Patronage Capital	702,656	804,308
Net Margins	7,964,201	6,765,326

YEARLY COMPARISON	2024	2023
Kilowatt Hours Sold to Members	598,941,330	638,922,947
Average Residential Use Per Month	863	903
Overall Consumer Use Per Month	1,265	1,360
Number of Members	32,986	32,846
Number of Services	39,458	39,142
Number of Employees	76	78
Miles of Overhead Line	1,686	1,699
Miles of Underground Line	3,792	3,744
Patronage Capital Retirements to Date	\$83,354,280	\$79,513,485

REVENUE DOLLAR 2024

This is also known as the Operating Revenue. Here's the amount we collected from each rate class:

- 41% Residential
- 5% Irrigation
- 15% Large Power
- 22% Commercial
- 17% Non-Residential

EXPENSE DOLLAR 2024

This is the money we paid out. Here's the breakdown for how our money is spent:

- 63% Purchased Power
- 12% Depreciation
- 10% Distribution
- 7% Interest
- 5% General Admin
- 2% Customer
- 1% Taxes

What are you paying for?



FACILITY CHARGE

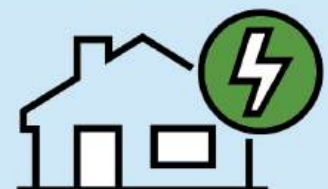
Your facility charge recovers costs from:

- Distribution Expense
- Customer Service & Sales Expense
- Administrative & General Expense
- Depreciation Expense

These expenses pay for our buildings, trucks, poles, equipment, computer systems, staff, and more.

KILOWATT-HOUR

When you pay for the energy you use, this is accounted for in our Cost of Purchased Power.



Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2024	2023
Total Utility Plant	320,490,944	304,840,014
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>103,016,314</u>	<u>95,133,050</u>
Net Utility Plant	217,474,630	209,706,964
Investments in Associated Organizations	27,542,622	27,105,940
Investments in Economic Development Projects	1,038,127	933,939
Other Investments	<u>408,989</u>	<u>428,513</u>
Total Other Property & Investments	28,989,737	28,468,392
Cash & Short-Term Investments	817,261	1,184,736
Accounts Receivable-Net	7,967,567	8,103,515
Materials & Supplies	4,890,362	3,763,138
Interest Receivable	53,914	53,987
Other Current & Accrued Assets	<u>1,388,264</u>	<u>3,592,016</u>
Total Current & Accrued Assets	15,117,368	16,697,392
Deferred Debits	<u>237,891</u>	<u>294,976</u>
Total Assets & Other Debits	<u>261,819,626</u>	<u>255,167,724</u>
LIABILITIES	2024	2023
Long-Term Debt Economic Development	780,288	839,026
Long-Term Debt	<u>134,230,017</u>	<u>131,529,955</u>
Total Long-Term Debt	135,010,304	132,368,981
Accounts Payable	4,508,830	5,017,462
Consumer Deposits	1,638,849	1,701,587
Other Current & Accrued Liability	<u>3,268,348</u>	<u>3,100,581</u>
Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	9,416,027	9,819,630
Deferred Credits	1,853,189	1,993,107
Patronage Capital	87,293,110	83,587,961
Other Equities	<u>28,246,996</u>	<u>27,398,045</u>
Total Margins & Other Equities	117,393,295	112,979,113
Total Liabilities & Other Credits	<u>261,819,626</u>	<u>255,167,724</u>

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA)

This also is factored into our Cost of Purchased Power. These funds contribute to the costs we incur from Alliant Energy, American Transmission Company (ATC), and Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO).



COUNTY & STATE TAX

These funds are a direct pass through and go to the counties we serve and the state of Wisconsin.



WI NON-TAXABLE PROGRAM

The money doesn't go into ACEC's accounts. It's split up and passed along to two entities; Focus on Energy and Energy Assistance.



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, wearing flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves, and thick, heavy boots. They're the individuals who are the perfect example of dedication to service. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems, or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Our crews travel across our twelve-county service territory, building, maintaining, and repairing parts of our local system. In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, this is their call to duty. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed, just like when they restored power in South Carolina last year due to destruction from Hurricane Helene.

The next time you flip a switch, take a moment to remember those who work for your local electric cooperative that make it possible.



Thank you

FRIENDSHIP

Garrett
Brian B
Eric K
Tim
Garin
Bryce
Garry

PARDEEVILLE

Chris
Bill
Adam
Brett
Jason H
Don
Kurt

WAUTOMA

Brian S
Jason K
Ryan
Brian M
Tom
Lucas
Jeremy



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 15 - 17 @ UW-STOUT

Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is a **FREE** teen leadership conference at UW-Stout centered around electric cooperatives. The conference is planned and developed by the youth board elected at the previous year's event. Attending YLC will give students real-world skills to use in everyday life. This is an unforgettable experience and is a great resume builder.

ACEC provides round-trip transportation from the co-op to YLC. A chaperone from the co-op attends the event as well. Students stay in the campus dorms during this three-day, two-night event. The program schedule is busy from dawn to dusk throughout the event.

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

Students that are elected to the youth board while attending YLC are sponsored to attend Youth Tour in Washington D.C. for **FREE**, which attracts students from across the country.

If students are not elected to the youth board, there is still an opportunity to attend Youth Tour by submitting an essay to the co-op after YLC.

The students below attended YLC last year and were selected to attend Youth Tour in Washington D.C. this June. Ashton and Dillan were elected to the youth board for YLC, and Kyra won our essay contest. We asked them the following question: **What would you tell someone to encourage them to register and attend YLC?**



ASHTON

"YLC is a great way to meet new people and learn more about the electrical field."



DILLAN

"Meeting new people is a great plus, and there are great leadership opportunities."



KYRA

"I think YLC is a great opportunity for kids to meet new people and get out of their comfort zone."

Students currently in their sophomore or junior year of high school are encouraged to register for YLC by June 6.
Learn more at www.acecwi.com/YLC.



**Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative**

CONTACT US

Customer Service & Billing
(800) 831-8629

Outages & Payments
(855) 957-3881

Diggers Hotline
(800) 242-8511 or 811

Email
acec@acecwi.com

Website
www.acecwi.com

Follow us on social media
[@ACECWI](https://twitter.com/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

Did you know you can vote for
your board of directors through
SmartHub?



SAFETY MESSAGE

Whether you're planting a garden or installing new fence posts, remember to call Diggers Hotline at 811 before you dig. As we approach warmer weather and are itching to get outdoor projects complete, let's work together to keep our communities safe and prevent damage to underground utilities. It's free, easy, and helps protect our environment and infrastructure.

Remember, 811 does not locate private utilities. Hire a private locator for systems including underground sprinklers, invisible fences, data communication systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Briefing of the Board Meeting

January 21, 2025

Board Action Items:

- Approved December GM expenses
- Approved November & December board vouchers
- Approved policies

View the full meeting summary on our website: www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins

FREE ENERGY- SAVING PACKS



As a member of our co-op, you're eligible to receive a free energy-saving pack from Focus on Energy once a year. They offer three packs to choose from and ship it to you for free.

Order your kit at focusonenergymarketplace.com or call (800) 762-7077.



PEACH COBBLER

PREP TIME - 15 MINS | COOK TIME - 40 MINS

INGREDIENTS

for peaches:

- 5 peaches, peeled, cored, & sliced (about 4 c)
- 3/4 c sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt

for batter:

- 6 Tbsp butter
- 1 c flour
- 1 c sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 3/4 c milk
- ground cinnamon

April 13 is National Peach Cobbler Day



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add the sliced peaches, sugar, and salt to a saucepan and stir to combine. (If using canned peaches, skip steps 1 & 2 and start at step 3).
2. Cook on medium heat for just a few minutes, until the sugar is dissolved and helps to bring out juices from the peaches. Remove from heat and set aside.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Slice butter into pieces and add to a 9x13 inch baking dish. Place the pan in the oven while it preheats, to allow the butter to melt. Once melted, remove the pan from the oven.
4. In a large bowl mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Stir in the milk until combined. Pour the mixture into the pan, over the melted butter and smooth it into an even layer.
5. Spoon the peaches and juice over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon generously over the top.
6. Bake at 350 degrees for about 38 - 40 minutes. Serve warm, with a scoop of ice cream, if desired.

Recipe from tastesbetterfromscratch.com/peach-cobbler