



BE AWARE OF HOLIDAY FIRE RISKS

The combination of candles, fireplaces, and flammable decorations increases the risk of fires during the holidays. On average, fire departments respond to 150 Christmas tree-related fires and 790 decoration-related fires annually, according to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). Follow these safety tips to keep your holidays festive, fun, and fire-free.

Candle safety

- Only burn candles where you can **keep an eye on them**.
- **Extinguish candles before going to bed**, leaving the room or leaving the house.
- **Use heat-resistant surfaces for candles**, placing them out of reach of children and pets.
- **Keep candles away from flammable items** like trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.
- **Opt for battery-operated candles** near flammable objects.



Christmas tree fire prevention

A beautiful Christmas tree adds to the festive spirit, but it's essential to ensure it's safe.

- **Choose a fresh tree.** Fresh trees have needles that are hard to pull from branches and have a sticky trunk bottom.
- **Keep the tree away from heat** sources such as fireplaces, space heaters and vents.
- **Check the water level daily** to prevent the tree from drying out.
- **Place the tree away from high-traffic areas** and doorways.
- **If using an artificial tree**, ensure it is labeled as fire-resistant.
- **When discarding a real tree**, place it far from your home and other combustible objects, as dried trees are highly flammable.



Holiday lighting safety

Decorative lights add cheer to the season, but safety is key:



- **Purchase lights from reputable retailers** and ensure they are approved by recognized testing labs like UL or CSA.
- **Only use lights designed for outdoor use** when hanging outside.
- **Use circuits equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)** for outdoor lights.
- **Avoid water and snow** when using extension cords and outdoor lights.
- **Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines** while hanging lights.
- **Check for broken sockets and frayed wires** before use.
- **Avoid plugging too many devices** into a single outlet.
- **Turn off indoor and outdoor decorations** when going to bed or leaving the house.

Fireplace safety tips

A cozy fireplace is a holiday favorite, but it requires careful handling.

- **Decorate wisely.** Avoid hanging flammable decorations like stockings and greenery directly on the mantel.
- **Perform annual maintenance.** Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned at least once a year.
- **Use a screen.** Install a screen to prevent embers from landing on floors or carpets.
- **Burn responsibly.** Never burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace, as they can ignite rapidly and cause flash fires.



By following these fire safety tips, you can enjoy a joyful and safe holiday season with your loved ones.

2025 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

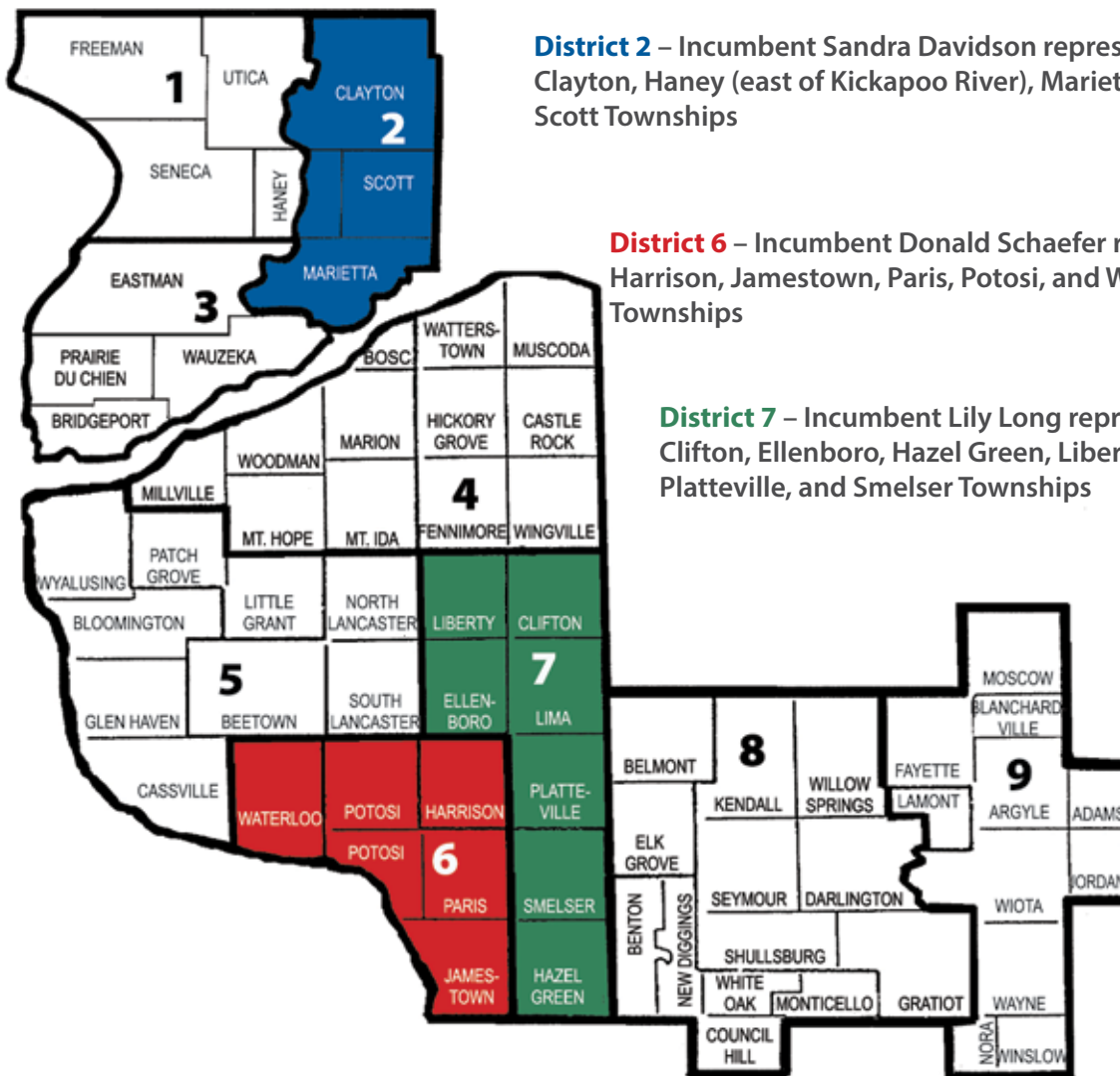
MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A DIRECTOR

As a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC), you have a voice through the election of the Board of Directors. You also have the opportunity to run for a board position yourself. In 2025, Districts 2, 6, and 7 will be up for election at the co-op's 2025 Annual Meeting held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Grant County Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster, WI.

Current Directors Sandra Davidson (District 2), Donald

Schaefer (District 6), and Lily Long (District 7) have the option to campaign and seek re-election for these seats.

Members who live in one of these districts that are interested in serving on the SREC board may call our office or visit our website to download petition forms. If you are unsure which district you live in, please refer to the map below or call our office.



District 2 – Incumbent Sandra Davidson representing Clayton, Haney (east of Kickapoo River), Marietta, and Scott Townships

District 6 – Incumbent Donald Schaefer representing Harrison, Jamestown, Paris, Potosi, and Waterloo Townships

District 7 – Incumbent Lily Long representing Clifton, Ellenboro, Hazel Green, Liberty, Lima, Platteville, and Smelser Townships

For additional information about the petition process or qualifications for directors, please refer to the Bylaws, the sample petition form, and the director district map, which are available on the cooperative's website at www.sre.coop. Please contact the office at 800-236-2141 with any questions.



DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Who is on the board?

The board of directors is comprised of nine cooperative members; one from each of the nine cooperative districts.

What does a director do?

A director represents all members of SREC and is responsible for approving general policies, annual budgets, special contracts, capital credit allocations and retirements, rate schedules, and delegating authority to the CEO to execute and carry out the daily activities of the cooperative. Directors' decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative.

Is there any compensation?

As provided by the Bylaws, directors receive a \$500 per diem plus IRS-approved mileage for attendance at meetings.

What is the time commitment?

Directors should anticipate committing 24-30 days per year to their roles, including monthly board meetings, SREC's annual meeting, training and education seminars, and travel. The board meets on the last Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., with meetings generally spanning three to four hours.

How do you join the board of directors?

- Interested candidates should review the list of qualifications found online or by contacting our office.
- Potential candidates must reside in the district in which they wish to represent.
- Nominations shall be made by petition. Petition forms are available beginning December 13, 2024, and may be found online at www.sre.coop or by calling our office.
- The petition must be signed by a minimum of fifteen (15) members who reside in the district in which the nominee resides in order to become eligible to run for a position on the board.
- In the case of a joint membership (example: a husband and wife), the signature of one or both joint members will count as only one (1) signature per the Bylaws of the cooperative.
- The completed petition shall be submitted to the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative office by January 12, 2025.

Cooperative Principle #2: Democratic Member Control

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC) is owned by its members and guided by directors elected from the membership. That's the cooperative difference!

Save the Date

**Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative
Annual Meeting
April 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
Youth and Ag Building
Lancaster, WI**

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The winning photo for December in SREC's 2024 Member Photo Contest is "Highland Cattle" by Ben Schmidtke of Platteville.



GIVE THE GIFT OF ENERGY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Looking for the perfect present for someone? Surprise them with the gift of energy! If they receive electric service from Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, you can help with their electric bill by gifting them a SREC gift certificate.

Contact our Billing Department to make this thoughtful, practical gift happen—because who couldn't use a little extra energy this season?



BE ALERT FOR PEAK ALERTS

Winter is upon us, and with it comes peak alert season for our cooperative members. Peak alerts typically occur on the coldest days, when the electricity demand – and costs – are highest.

By reducing or delaying your energy usage between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on these cold winter days, you help SREC lower wholesale power costs, which means savings that are passed to you, our members. By turning off lights and appliances you aren't using, you can help make a significant difference.

Stay updated on Peak alerts by following us on Facebook, visiting our website, or tuning into these local radio stations:

- WVRQ 102.3 FM • WGLR 97.7 FM
- WPRE 104.3 FM • WBGR 93.7 FM
- WQPC 94.3 FM • WPVL 107.1 FM

Whether you hear the peak alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing or delaying your electricity usage on cold winter days.



Happy Holidays

From our co-op family to yours, we wish you a safe and warm season with friends and loved ones.

**Our offices will be closed
Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1.**



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