



Steve Lucas, CEO

## FRIGID PREDICTIONS

### Help is available for eligible members struggling to pay their heating bills

Remember all that talk a few years back about the polar vortex? During the intense winter of 2013/14, a weakened polar vortex brought in frigid temperatures and an overabundance of snow. We've had time to forget about it, and last winter was thankfully milder than usual. But according to the experts who predict these things, we'll be talking polar vortex again really soon. You can read more about concerns surrounding the expected cold winter ahead on page 10 of this magazine.

So it seems we can all prepare for colder-than-usual temperatures, which inevitably means higher-than-usual energy bills. Not only does frigid weather mean household furnaces are running constantly, but freezing temperatures and heavy snowfalls also tend to keep folks inside more. Spending more time indoors during the shortened, cold days of winter means people have lights on longer and are watching TV or operating other electronics more often, and just in general using more electricity.

No one likes the higher winter bills, but for some folks the higher costs of winter are more than an annoyance. Those who struggle to pay their bills are sometimes forced to make some



very difficult decisions about which necessities to cut back on in order to pay the higher winter energy bill.

If your household falls into that category, please keep in mind that there is help available through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), which helps eligible low-income households pay for energy services. WHEAP heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating seasons that's intended to help pay a portion of a household's heat and electric costs. The benefit depends on household size, income, and energy costs. You're eligible for assistance if your household's combined income is at or below the levels shown on the chart at right.

For more information and application details, please call your local office:

- Crawford County Human Services Department: (608) 326-0248
- Grant County Department of Social Services: (608) 723-2136
- Lafayette County Human Services: (608) 776-4902

Also, remember that SREC offers resources that can help you reduce your power usage, which in turn lowers your energy costs. As a SREC member, you have access to information about saving energy as well as state incentives through our partnership with Focus on Energy. Check out our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop), to learn more. And stay warm.

#### WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2017–2018 Heating Season

Household Size	3 Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$6,650.25	\$26,601
2	\$8,696.25	\$34,785
3	\$10,742.50	\$42,970
4	\$12,788.75	\$51,155
5	\$14,835.00	\$59,340
6	\$16,881.25	\$67,525
7	\$17,264.75	\$69,059
8	\$17,648.50	\$70,594



## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's 2016 Member Photo Contest for November was taken by Sherry Kane Johnsrud on County Q between Montfort and Fennimore. December's winning photo appeared in the November issue. 2018 calendars, featuring winning photos from our 2017 Member Photo Contest, are available at our offices in Lancaster, Gays Mills, and Darlington while supplies last.

## ENERGY REBATES DUE DECEMBER 31

Did you recently make some energy-saving improvements to your home? We have rebates that may help. Rebates are available for purchase of qualified Energy Star-rated appliances, installation of new heating and cooling systems, and energy-efficient lighting, to name a few. Check them out our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop); click on Energy Rebates under the Programs and Services tab.

Act quickly: Rebates are in place through December 31, 2017, or until funds are depleted.



# Thanks for celebrating Co-op Month with us!

SREC's 2017 Member Appreciation Celebrations were brightened by lots of smiles from the many members who turned out at our Lancaster, Gays Mills, and Darlington offices to help us celebrate October Co-op Month. Members enjoyed a tasty pulled-pork sandwich dinner and learned more about their co-op by visiting with SREC employees and directors and perusing the information available at various displays.

Once again, bucket-truck rides were a hit among folks of all ages. This year, we took pictures of the bucket-truck riders for each member to take home. As you can see from the sampling of photos here, we had a lot of happy members riding in the buckets! One couple even celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary by joining us in Darlington and taking a bucket truck ride! The happy couple is pictured in the top left photo.

Members registered for door prizes at each location. Winners were as follows:

**AM/FM Weather Alert Radio** – Gary Brewer, Cuba City; Rodney Check, Prairie du Chien; Dallas Cecil, South Wayne

**Kindle Fire 7** – Lonnie Holthaus, Fennimore; Daniel Everson, Soldiers Grove; Michael Langmeier, Cuba City

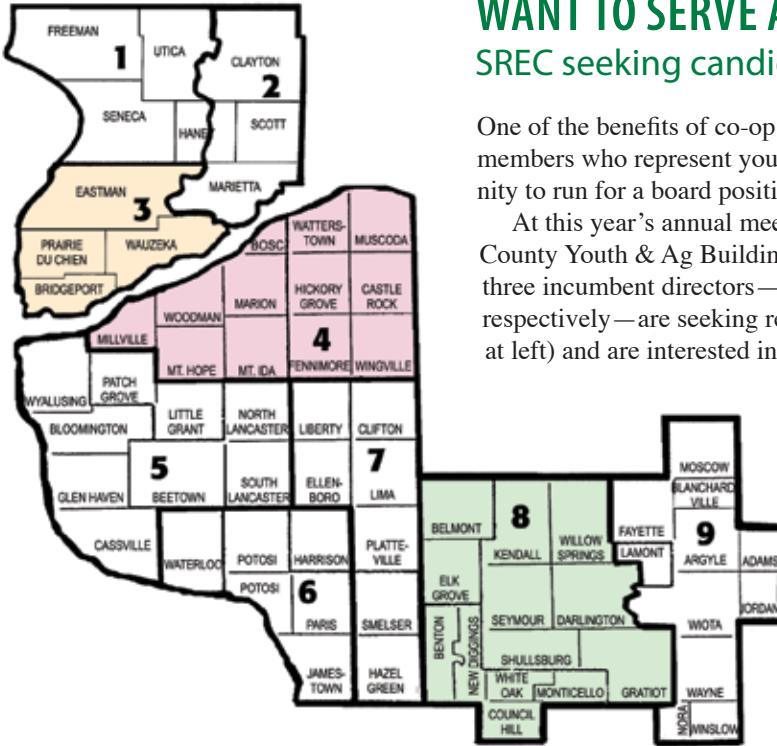
**High-Capacity Portable Power Bank** – Heath Mumm, Cassville; Ron Schneider, Eastman; Keith Dieter, Cuba City

**Mini Bluetooth Speaker** – Roger Reed, Lancaster; Lena Tainter, Gays Mills; John Mc Daniel, Gratiot



## WANT TO SERVE AS A DIRECTOR?

### SREC seeking candidates in Districts 3, 4, and 8



One of the benefits of co-op membership is democratic control; you choose the members who represent you on the board of directors. You also have the opportunity to run for a board position yourself.

At this year's annual meeting, to be held Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Grant County Youth & Ag Building, elections will be held for Districts 3, 4, and 8. All three incumbent directors—Chuck Simmons, Ellen Conley, and Steve Carpenter, respectively—are seeking re-election. If you live in one of these districts (see map at left) and are interested in serving on the board, you may begin getting signatures for your petition on December 15, 2017 (but not before).

Petitions must be signed by 15 or more members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative who reside in the district in which the nominee would represent. Petitions must be received at the SREC headquarters office in Lancaster no later than January 14, 2018.

Watch your December *Watt's Happening* or go to our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop), for more details on the nomination process as well as director candidate qualifications.





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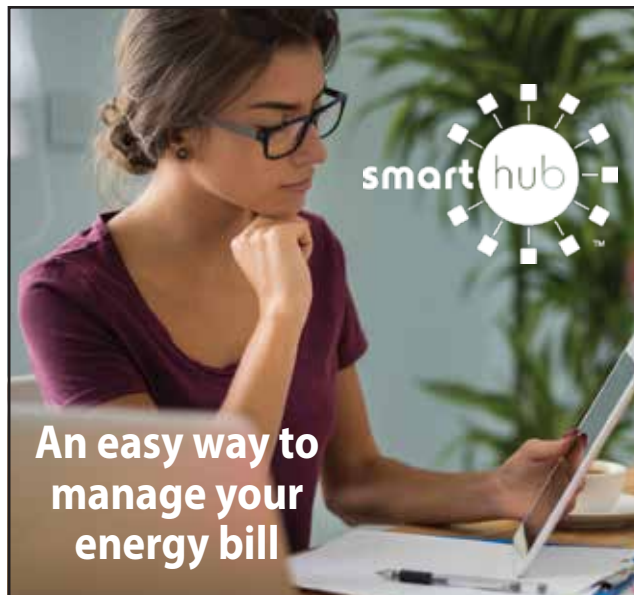
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**Board of Directors**

- Chuck Simmons, Chairman
- Donald Schaefer, Vice Chairman
- Sandra Davidson, Secretary–Treasurer
- Ellen Conley, Asst. Secretary–Treasurer
- Larry Butson, Director
- Steve Carpenter, Director
- Delbert Reuter, Director
- Jack Larson, Director
- Marcus Saegrove, Director