



Steve Lucas, CEO

WEATHERING A WINTER STORM

I admit, I was starting to feel a little complacent after the pleasant autumn that we enjoyed here in southwest Wisconsin. With unseasonably warm

temperatures well into November, it was easy to just not think about what was bound to happen sooner or later.

And it happened right at the start of December: Winter made an abrupt appearance, with several inches of heavy, wet snow. The next weekend we got hit again with even more snow, followed by rapidly dropping temperatures. The next weekend we got yet another round.

It was all a good reminder that the weather is unpredictable, and we need to always be prepared because conditions can turn on a dime. It helps to start with understanding the differences among the various storm watches and warnings.

- **Winter Storm Watches** signify that stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet, are likely within the next few days. You should be alert, as this means adverse conditions could begin within the next 12 to 48 hours.
- **Winter Storm Warnings** call for stormy conditions to begin within the next 24 hours. Those in the range of the warning should be mindful of the impending conditions and consider canceling plans to travel.

- **Blizzard Warnings** advise those in the affected areas to seek refuge immediately due to high levels of snow, strong winds, and resulting near-zero visibility to those traveling on the road.

If a major storm hits and the power goes out, notify Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative right away—don't assume your neighbor has already called. Have an emergency kit prepared to help you and your family weather the storm and the outage safely and comfortably. Some of the items this kit should include are bottled water, non-perishable food, flashlights, a weather radio, and extra batteries.

To protect your circuits and appliances when power is restored, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on to let you know when the power is restored.

If you are using an alternative heating source during an outage, be sure you know how to use it safely.

If you must venture outside, be careful. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see. Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down the pole and other equipment, causing additional hazards.

If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside the vehicle. Treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact us.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's 2017 Member Photo Contest for January is from Nancy Pagenkopf of Lancaster.

We still have copies of our 2017 calendar available. Pick yours up from any of our three offices—in Lancaster, Gays Mills, and Darlington—while supplies last.

And keep snapping! Photos taken now can be submitted in next year's Member Photo Contest. Watch next month's issue of the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News as well as our website, www.sre.coop, for more details.





GEARING UP for retirement

Fred Maughan closes 38-year co-op career

Fred Maughan is a self-described gearhead. He says he’s been that way since he was in high school. He keeps “a couple of toys” in his garage, including a 1975 Firebird Trans Am that he keeps in peak form and takes to car shows on summer weekends.

Now he’ll have a little more time for toys and car shows as he closed out a 38-year career at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at the first of the year. He’s held several positions in his nearly four decades with the co-op, but most of his work has involved the gearhead stuff that he loves.

Maughan began working for the former Grant Electric Cooperative in September 1978 as part of the line crew. He was moved to a mechanic position a few months later when the shop was completed and the co-op began doing its own service work. The new job made good use of his skill set, even though it wasn’t exactly the career he had planned for.

“After high school I went to vocational school in Fennimore and took ag mechanics,” Maughan said. “I thought, people can always get along without their cars, but they need their farm machinery.”

Ironically, he never officially worked with farm machinery during his career—he always did automotive work. However, the ag course prepared him well for managing the fleet at the co-op.

“The ag course gives you hydraulics, so I kind of fit right in working on digger derrick trucks because I knew hydraulics,” he pointed out.

As a mechanic, Maughan still headed out with the line crew to help with restoration work, often during the worst weather and at the most inconvenient times. He’s worked through “umpteen”



This 1975 Firebird Trans Am once belonged to Fred Maughan’s father. Since acquiring it, Maughan has kept the vintage vehicle in tip-top shape and frequently takes it to car shows.

storms, but one that stands out occurred over Thanksgiving back in about 1990.

“We had an ice storm come through just before Thanksgiving Day, a really icy and snowy event,” he said. “We worked all night around the Cassville area. The next day was Thanksgiving,

“...I kind of fit right in working on digger derrick trucks because I knew hydraulics.”

—Fred Maughan

and it became daylight, and we decided we were going to get something to eat. And what’s open on Thanksgiving Day? Nothing. So we headed back to Lancaster, and we were soaking wet, so we got dry clothes and went out to A&W and had breakfast, and that breakfast included our Thanksgiving Day dinner because we went right back out after that

and worked the rest of that day.”

However, working long nights in bad weather wasn’t, for Maughan, the hardest part of his job. Overnight work during storms is to be expected when you’re part of a line crew, he pointed out, “and there’s nothing hard about it. You just do it.”

Instead, the hardest part for Maughan was keeping up with the constant changes that came once computers became part of his daily work, especially when he switched from mechanics to purchasing in 1994.

“I am the first to say I am not computer literate,” he said, “But in purchasing I had to learn it. I just took it one day at a time.”

Still, Maughan doesn’t regret turning his focus to purchasing, the job he was doing up until he retired. In fact, he advises young people considering linework as a career to take advantage of any opportunity to learn other jobs within the operations department. That way, they’ll be prepared if they should ever want to switch tasks.

“I tell them to remember two things: You’re always out there in the worst weather imaginable, and it’s a young

man's profession," Maughan said. "There's always heavy lifting when you're a lineworker. Most guys, when they get to be in their 50s, need to get out of the heavy lifting. So don't be afraid to leave that and do something related to it, like staking."

Regardless of the specific job he's held, Maughan said the best part of working at the co-op has always been the members.

"Most of them are wonderful," he said. "That's the best part of the job—working for the members."

He'll miss the members, but he's looking forward to spending more time participating in his favorite pastimes, including "varmint hunting."

He and his wife, Bonnie, have two children, two grandsons, and a granddaughter; all three grandchildren are avid hockey players, so he's also looking forward to taking in more youth hockey tournaments now that he's retired.

And there's also that Trans Am in the garage. After all, Maughan might be retired, but he's still a gearhead. —*Mary Erickson*



SREC honored Fred Maughan's retirement with a cake at a recent employee gathering.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The heating season is in full swing. Those members who face difficulties covering their household heating costs may find some help through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP).

WHEAP assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season that is intended to help pay a portion of an eligible household's heat and electricity costs. The benefit amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs. You are eligible if your household's combined income is at or below a certain level. 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

SREC EMPLOYEE EFFORT EXEMPLIFIES SEVENTH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative employees put the seventh cooperative principle—Concern for Community—in action last month when they collectively adopted a family through the Grant County Family Holiday Project.

The mission of this project is to gather clothing, food, and gifts for families—especially those with young children or senior citizens—who might not otherwise receive any presents at Christmas.

Co-op businesses everywhere adhere to the same set of principles, six of which were established in 1895. The seventh principle was added in 1995, and it states: "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members."





DEADLINE FOR DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PETITIONS JANUARY 8

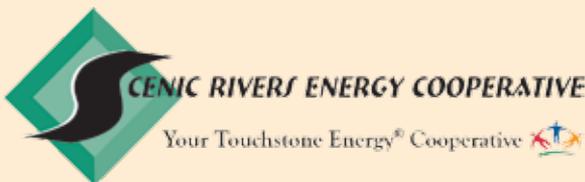
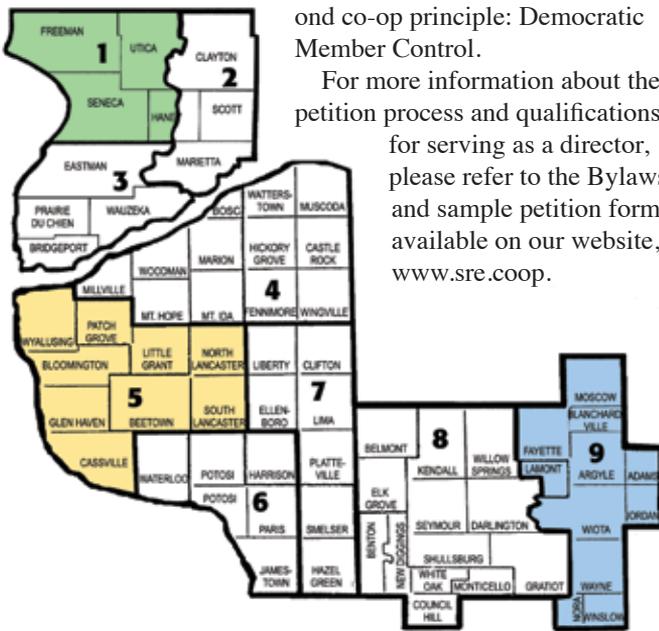
SREC seeking candidates in Districts 1, 5, 9

The deadline for filing a petition for candidacy for the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Board of Directors is fast approaching.

The terms of the directors in Districts 1, 5, and 9 will expire at the 2017 annual meeting on April 8. All three incumbent directors—Marcus Saegrove, Delbert Reuter, and Jack Larson, respectively—are seeking re-election. If you live in one of these districts (see map) and are interested in serving on the board, you may submit a petition signed by 15 or more members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative who reside within the same district that you would represent. Petitions must be delivered to the cooperative's headquarters in Lancaster at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting—that is, no later than January 8.

This opportunity for any eligible member to run for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors is a benefit of co-op membership. It's part of the second co-op principle: Democratic Member Control.

For more information about the petition process and qualifications for serving as a director, please refer to the Bylaws and sample petition form available on our website, www.sre.coop.



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SAVE MONEY WITH OUR REBATES

Did your list of New Year's resolutions include saving money? How about saving energy? That's a resolution that can put more money in your pocket while helping the environment. We can help you do both with our energy rebate program, available to members who purchase of new, energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling systems, and even lighting.

The 2017 rebates are now available on our website at www.sre.coop. There are a few changes to this year's program that you should be aware of.

First, the deadline for submitting necessary paperwork has been changed from six months after purchase or installation to three months after purchase or installation. This also applies to year-end purchases. For example, a qualified item purchased on December 31, 2017, would qualify for a rebate until March 31, 2018.

Also, a few new rebates have been added to the program. Visit our website to see if any of the purchases you have planned for the year will qualify.

Please contact us with any questions.



SAVE THE DATE!

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's 2017 annual meeting will be held **Saturday, April 8**, at the Youth & Ag Buliding in Lancaster, with the business meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. Watch this magazine and our website, www.sre.coop, for more details.

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