

ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS GOOD NEWS

The approximately 300 members and guests who gathered at the Youth & Ag Building in Lancaster April 8 for Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's 80th annual meeting heard good news about their co-op.

CEO Steve Lucas announced that there will be no rate increase in 2017. "We haven't had a rate increase in five years, and we're going to make that six," he said.

Lucas said this is partly due to the staff's willingness and ability to "do more with less," but also to a breach-of-contract settlement received by the co-op's wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, from the federal government regarding the storage of nuclear waste.

"Dairyland is a co-op like we are, so those funds come back to us," Lucas explained. He announced that members will be credited their own share of the settlement in October during Co-op Month, when members receive their capital credit refund via credit on their bill. He told them to watch this year's capital credit refund, which will include the settlement refund.

"It's going to be more than it was last year, so that's the other piece of good news," he added.

Another highlight of the past year, Lucas said, is the

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—CEO Steve Lucas

completion of the community solar garden located at the co-op's Mt. Hope substation, which became operational January 1. Lucas explained the solar project is a 1.25-megawatt installation that is owned by SoCore Energy, a solar developer out of Chicago. SoCore owns the actual facility;

Dairyland simply purchases the power produced at this site, on a 25-year contract.

"The reason that's important," he said, "is, one, we're doing our part for the environment. Two, our membership now has a source of generation that is renewable that we can all feel happy about, but it did not cost our members one dime."

Secretary-Treasurer Sandy Davidson delivered the treasurer's report, which show that the co-op is in very strong



One of the advantages of attending the annual meeting is the opportunity to talk to co-op staff and directors. Board Vice Chairman Don Schaefer (photo at left) and Board Chairman Chuck Simmons (right) greet members before the start of the business meeting.



financial condition. She added SREC has retired about \$1 million in capital credits for the last several years, “which is higher than most co-ops in Wisconsin.”

In a question-and-answer period, Lucas addressed a variety of topics including dusk-to-dawn lights, upcoming construction projects including plans to build 35 to 40 miles of new line this year, and support of a bill extending the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps. Regarding the latter, Lucas encouraged members to contact their legislators about those issues they are passionate about.

A highlight of every annual meeting is the awarding of scholarships to high school seniors. Qualified students entered their applications into a drawing for \$750 college scholarships, to be given to a student from each of the high schools within the co-op’s service territory. Funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits.

In elections, three directors were returned to their seats on the board. Marcus Saegrove, Delbert Reuter, and Jack Larson were re-elected in uncontested races in Districts 1, 5, and 9, respectively. In a reorganization meeting following the business meeting, all board officers were returned to their seats, with Chuck Simmons as chairman, Don Schaefer as vice chairman, Davidson as secretary–treasurer, and Ellen Conley as assistant secretary–treasurer.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a dinner of steak sandwiches provided by Ma’s Bakery.

Annual Meeting Prize Winners

\$100 Bill Credit

David Gould, Darlington

\$50 Bill Credit

Gary Mosley, Darlington; Gloria Caley, Beetown; Bill and Susan Mergen, Prairie du Chien

\$25 Bill Credit

John Cathman III, Bagley; Peggy Cauffman, Fennimore; Gary Droessler, Potosi; Margaret Davidson, Soldiers Grove; Marilyn Pitzer, Wauzeka; Carl Hudson, Lancaster; Joseph Vosberg, Cuba City; Russell Herrmann, Ferryville; Rodney Check, Prairie du Chien; Jim Butson, Platteville

\$50 Bill Credit (mail-in ballots)

M.P. Blum, Susan Pehlmoeller, Earl Duha, James Dworschack, Larry Laufenberg, Dale Schliem



Scholarship Winners – Front row, left to right: McKailah Strang, Shullsburg H.S.; Hope Francis, Darlington H.S.; Beatrice Mumm, River Ridge H.S.; Jessica Bedtka, Wauzeka Steuben H.S.; Kristen Adams, Boscobel H.S.; Mikayla Olson, Seneca H.S.; Sarah Schauer, Fennimore H.S.; and Mia Wahl, Monroe H.S. Second row, left to right: Max Dach, Viroqua H.S.; Cheyanna Washburn, North Crawford H.S.; Kate Nusbaum, Potosi H.S.; Ron Allen, Iowa-Grant H.S.; Madalyn Pfohl, Cuba City H.S.; Madeline Peterson, Prairie du Chien; Taylor Fleege, Southwestern H.S.; and Carly Chadd, Lancaster H.S. Back row, left to right: Shane O’Niell, Benton H.S.; Jarrett Lancaster, Darlington H.S.; Josh Weaver, Darlington H.S.; Luke Baliff, Cassville H.S.; Nicholas Mewhirter, Platteville H.S.; Kaleb Cauffman, Fennimore H.S.; Josh Meier, Blackhawk H.S.; Jonathan Dyer, Prairie du Chien H.S.; Kole Kent, Pecatonica H.S.; and Fulton Flanary, Mineral Point H.S.



Above: Representative Lee Nerison (left) was on hand, shown here visiting with directors Delbert Reuter (center) and Steve Carpenter. Right: Free blood-pressure checks were available courtesy of the Grant County Health Department.



Left: Touchstone Energy's Solar Sam and LED Lucy greeted members as they entered the Youth & Ag Building for the annual meeting. Above: Each member received an Energy Conservation Kit.

MY CO-OP



Retirements Recognized – CEO Steve Lucas recognized three retirements that occurred in 2016. Left to right: Former Director Dave Stute retired from the board due to health reasons after 11 years of service; Fred Maughan retired after a 38-year career that saw him assume a variety of roles within the operations department, most recently in purchasing; and Karan Knutson retired after 26 years as a billing clerk working out of the Gays Mills office and the former Crawford Electric Cooperative before the 1999 merger that created SREC.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS OFFERS FUN, FRIENDSHIP, AND OPPORTUNITIES

If you're a high school student from a SREC member family looking for some excitement this summer, we've got the perfect opportunity for you! Join students from all over the state for three days of cooperative education, leadership development, and plain old fun at the Youth Leadership Congress, held this year July 26–28 on the campus of UW-River Falls. Students entering grades 10, 11, and 12 in the fall of 2017 are eligible to attend.

This annual event, planned by and for teens, offers a program filled with team-building activities, hands-on learning sessions that teach the co-op difference, and sessions led by renowned motivational speakers who will challenge



and inspire you. There's also a formal banquet and a dance.

The opportunities don't end with the conference. Each year, YLC participants elect seven of their peers

to the State Youth Board, which meets throughout the year to plan the next year's event. These board members also have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., in June to participate in the National Youth Tour with other student leaders throughout the country.

In addition, YLC participants can write an essay for a chance to win a college scholarship.

The best part: This opportunity won't cost you anything! All registration costs are covered by the sponsoring electric cooperative; SREC will even provide transportation to and from River Falls.

There's still time to register! Contact Heidi at SREC by calling 608-723-2121 ext. 554. You can also learn more on our website, www.sre.coop.



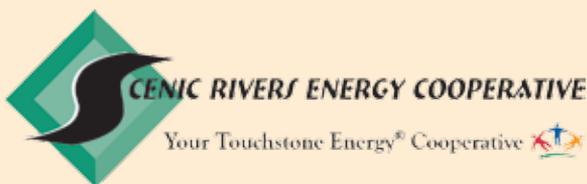
MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's Member Photo Contest for May was taken in Prairie du Chien by Debra A. Gates. If you're a shutterbug yourself, please share your pictures with us by entering the 2017 Member Photo Contest, which runs until August 21. We welcome all photos that capture the beauty of the three-county area we serve. Winning photos will appear in our 2018 member calendar. Visit our website, www.sre.coop, for contest details and downloadable forms.

SAVE WITH OUR ENERGY REBATES

Are you planning to tackle some home-improvement projects this summer? If they involve boosting your home's energy efficiency—whether it's by updating your old appliances with new Energy Star-rated ones, installing a new heating and cooling system, or even just replacing your remaining incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving CFLs or LEDs—you might qualify for one of our energy rebates! Check them out on our website at www.sre.coop; click on Energy Rebates under the Programs and Services tab.

The deadline for submitting necessary paperwork is three months after purchase or installation. Rebates are in place through December 31, 2017, or until funds are depleted.



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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