



Steve Lucas, CEO

A message from the CEO

LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER, NOW AND ALWAYS



As I write this the calendar tells me it's April 1. And traditionally on April 1 people play pranks on each other. Unfortunately, due to the situation we find ourselves in no one is in the mood to be pranked so today, I thought I would let you know what is going on at your co-op.

As with the rest of the world, I've been following the developments of the coronavirus very closely. Every year my senior staff and I run disaster plan scenarios so that we are better prepared to deal with crisis situations. But no amount of planning could prepare anyone for the situation we find ourselves in today. The speed of the spread of the coronavirus has caught everyone off guard. But I'm quite pleased to report your cooperative is more than capable of handling the situation.

The first thing that we asked ourselves when we put together our plan was what is most important. The answer to that question is, of course, as always, the safety of our employees and our members. So, the first thing we did was to practice social distancing not only in our offices but in the field as well. Unfortunately, this meant that we had to postpone our annual meeting as well as close the lobbies of our offices. It was a hard decision,

but it was the right thing to do. At the time we made those decisions it was based on the best information we had at the time to protect not only the employees but also our members.

Unfortunately, with the spread of the virus we have now had to take further measures to protect our most valuable assets, which are our employees and members. On March 24 I gave the order that all employees would work from home. What this meant is that all of the office personnel were given computers and any other tools they would need to continue doing their work as they do every day—they would just be doing it from home. The linemen were each assigned a truck to take home so they could respond to outages with minimal contact. With the linemen being quarantined basically in their trucks, it was determined that certain activities could continue. So, the linemen were instructed that they could continue to patrol line and do maintenance activities that could be achieved individually.

I challenged all the employees at your co-op when these measures were put in place. The challenge was, "The members should never know that anything has changed!" Meaning, when our members call, they should not know that you're not sitting in your office. If our members have an outage, they should not know that you got in your truck in your driveway at home to respond. I'm pleased to report they have accomplished that goal! You can rest assured that your co-op is still

accomplishing everything that you've come to expect of us—we are just doing it a little differently during this trying time.

During times like this it's too easy to concentrate on negative things, and get overwhelmed by the world around us. So, I choose to concentrate on the things we have instead of the things we don't have. I have the most dedicated employees that I could ever ask for. They know that what they do matters to our members, so any challenge that we face they are more than capable of accomplishing. I have a board of directors that truly gets how difficult the circumstances are at this time and has given us every tool to meet the challenges that we face. I have members who have a true sense of community and are always willing to assist us anyway they can. For all of these things I am truly grateful.

A few years ago, the journalist Tom Brokaw wrote a book about the "Greatest Generation." The underlying premise of the book was how people reacted during World War II. There are a lot of similarities to the position we find ourselves in today. But what was true then is still true today. People took care of each other, they did what needed to be done, and they made sacrifices for the good of all. There's no way that I am comparing this to a world war, but I am convinced that what made that generation great never died—it was just in hibernation.

In closing, the thing that I would like the members to know is that your co-op has been here for you for the last 80 years and we will be here for you for the next 80. We are all in this together and together we will prevail.

Be safe and take care of each other!



MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

May's winning photo in SREC's 2020 Member Photo Contest was taken by Maggie Vetsch of Potosi, and it's titled "Divinity of Nature." Our 2021 Member Photo Contest is underway. Visit www.sre.coop for details and downloadable forms.



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is keenly aware of the business disruption and potential economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic to employers and employees alike. Below are some resources that may be available to assist you in this trying time. We are sharing these links and information with you solely as a service and we are in no way endorsing any program. We encourage our members to look into these and other programs that may be of assistance to you at this time.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) – www.sba.gov

Economic Injury Disaster Loan & Loan Advance

- Working capital loans up to \$2 million
- \$10,000 advance upon application which can be forgiven, based on eligible uses
- 3.75% fixed rate; up to 30-year term
- 12-month payment deferral
- Direct application to SBA

Paycheck Protection Program

- Incentive to keep workers on payroll
- Amount based on payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent and utilities
- Forgivability based on employee rehiring and retention
- 1% fixed rate; 2-year maturity
- Application via SBA-approved lender

SBA Debt Relief

- Businesses with existing SBA loans should contact their lender to discuss deferral options

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – dwd.wisconsin.gov

- Unemployment – COVID-19 Public Information

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Small Business 20/20 – wedc.org/programs-and-resources/small-business-2020/

- Grants up to \$20,000
- Only existing Community Development Financial Institution loan clients are eligible

WEDC—COVID-19 Business Resources – wedc.org/programs-and-resources/covid-19-response/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Emergency Small Business Loans – www.uschamber.com/
- U.S. Department of Labor – www.dol.gov/coronavirus
- Internal Revenue Service – Coronavirus Tax Relief – www.irs.gov/coronavirus
- Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce – COVID-19 Employer Toolkit – www.wmc.org/
- Wisconsin Small Business Development Centers – wisconsinsbdc.org/services/covid-19/

**COVID-19
SAFETY TIPS**

STOP THE SPREAD

Preventing the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 is in your hands. Follow these easy steps to help keep yourself and others around you as safe as possible.



Wash hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water.



If there's no soap nearby, use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol based.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces often.



Cough or sneeze into a tissue, and dispose of the tissue immediately.



If there's no tissue, cough into your arm or sleeve, not your hand.



Stay home! Leave the house only for essential purposes or for exercise.



Practice social distancing when you must go out. Keep a 6 ft. distance between other people.



RESILIENCE

The capacity to recover from difficult life events

Tips to building RESILIENCE during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Maintain a healthy diet, get a good night's sleep, and exercise daily for at least 30 minutes.



Stay connected with family, friends, colleagues, and community groups using whatever means available—phone, email, social media, and more.



Find positive distractions—focus on a hobby, learn something new, read a book.



Reduce your risk—follow all guidelines and orders to protect yourself and loved ones.



Reach out for help if you feel overwhelmed.

Source: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov



ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



May is Electrical Safety Month!

Read the safety tips below to complete the crossword puzzle.

- ACROSS:** Keep all liquids away from _____, like TVs, computers and gaming consoles.
- DOWN:** Never overload electrical _____. This creates a greater risk of fire.
- DOWN:** Never use electrical _____ that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.
- ACROSS:** Smoke _____ should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- ACROSS:** Don't run electrical cords under rugs. This creates potential fire _____.

ANSWER KEY

ELECTRICAL Safety



DO NOT use generic chargers or cords. They could **overheat** or shock or burn you.



DO NOT put your cell phone **under your pillow** or take it to bed with you.



DO NOT use charging cell phones or other electrical devices **with wet or damp hands.**



DO NOT bring a charging cell phone or other electrical devices **near water**, including a **bathtub or pool.**



If you are in a car accident involving a downed power line, **DO NOT get out of the vehicle** unless you see smoke or fire.

If you must exit a burning vehicle near or on a downed power line, make a **clean exit from the car** and **land on both feet**; then **hop** with feet together, **DO NOT WALK**, to safety.



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