

THE FINAL FAREWELL

October is traditionally when we celebrate National Co-op Month and the members who make our co-op stronger. Being a member of a cooperative means several things, and from time to time we like to point out the various benefits we provide and the values that guide us. However, this year we are taking a moment to remember and honor a member of our cooperative family who we lost. Derrick Edward Heisz was a lead lineman in our Gays Mills office who served our members for the past seven years. “As a member of our co-op staff, Derrick’s passing leaves a hole in our family,” said Stephen Lucas, CEO.

On Saturday, September 9, Scenic Rivers staff, board members, and Derrick’s family and friends were joined by representatives from 19 electric cooperatives, two municipal utilities, and several area contractors to bid farewell. Hundreds gathered to remember Derrick as the joyful prankster and fearless lineman who impacted the lives of so many. A bucket truck

processional followed the service with over 50 vehicles including two of Derrick’s vintage restored cars.

“I hope everyone will remember him for his generosity,” said Andy Kilcoyne, area supervisor. Day or night, Derrick was always just a phone call away no matter what you needed. He wanted to help even after the work day was done.

Derrick will be remembered as a master prankster, who once tricked a fellow employee into collecting the truck’s exhaust in a garbage bag, convincing him that was how exhaust tests were conducted. Another time Derrick tasked a co-worker with changing the air filter in the basement (there was no basement). “He was simply fun to be around,” was echoed by many coworkers and friends.

While the stories and memories are fresh in our minds, it is good and right to share them. Derrick was more than just an employee; he was part of our family. We will miss him in many ways. He would want us to smile when we talk of him and to pull the occasional prank.

We will, Derrick. For you, we will.



THANK YOU!

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS ONCE AGAIN THIS CO-OP MONTH!

For the last two years we have awarded \$10 bill credits to hundreds of members, and we're doing it again! By being a member, you'll be entered into a daily drawing for \$10 in bill credits. Each day we'll randomly draw our winners. Day 1 = 1 winner; day 2 = 2 winners; day 3 = 3 winners; until October 31, when we'll draw 31 winners of \$10 each! **In total, we'll award 492 members with random bill credits.**

Each member can only win once and will be notified by phone. Prizes will appear on your November 2023 bill statement.

Want to know who wins? Like us on Facebook and Instagram to see the daily winners' announcements.



Co-op Month is a perfect time to say "Thank You" to our members. To be a strong cooperative, we need each and every member on our lines, every day. By working together, as a community, we've built more than miles and miles of lines and poles; we've built a community.



UPGRADE UNLOCKED

New Look. New Experience. Same Smarthub.

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web application. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze. Keep an eye out for more details soon!



Visit our website for more information
and to sign up today:

www.sre.coop/smarthub-information



HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK



SREC calculates annual margins.



SREC Board of Directors authorizes the Capital Credit Patronage Allocation (CCPA).



Eventually, CCPAs are retired which = Cash Back for our members.

CAPITAL CREDITS

A Co-op Membership Benefit

As a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC), you may have heard the term “capital credits” before and wondered what it means. Additionally, there is a capital credit patronage allocation and a retirement of capital credits, further mudding the water. And, what are margins? And, what does it all mean to you? Let’s make it easier.

- **Member** – That’s you, or whoever signed the membership form when you first started receiving electricity from SREC.
- **Margins** – These are the income minus expenses for each year and they’re distributed proportionately to active members based on total electricity used that same year.
- **Capital Credit Patronage Allocation (CCPA)** – Noted on your bill statements, this represents your previous year’s share of the SREC margins. This is not cash back and has no cash value...yet.
- **Capital Credit Retirements** – When it is financially feasible, the board of directors will retire previously allocated margins, which equals cash back for you!

Where are my capital credit funds?

If you think you should have received a check in the mail, but didn’t, please call us during regular business hours. It is possible we do not have your current mailing address.

At a recent meeting, the board of directors voted to retire a percentage of the previously allocated capital credits from 1996 through 2019, totaling more than \$1,000,000. If you are a current SREC member, your capital credit retirements appear on your October bill statement as a credit. If you are no longer an active member, a check will be mailed to your last known address.

If you would like to know more about capital credits, please contact us at 1-800-236-2141. Thank you for being a member of SREC and making our

Grab your bill and look for your capital credits or watch your mail for a check.

What happens to unclaimed funds?

SREC makes a diligent effort to return all allocated capital credits back to our current and former members as state law requires. However, if we cannot locate a member, after three years, the funds become “unclaimed” and are placed in our Federated Youth Foundation account. Funds in this account are used strictly to award college scholarships and to fund youth activities and youth education programs throughout our service territory that benefit our members.

IN MEMORY

Raymond Martin, 1932 – 2023

Former director Raymond Martin was committed to public service as well as farming. He became a cooperative member in 1962 when he moved on to his farm on Shanghai Ridge Road. He became a director of Crawford Electric Cooperative in 1990 and then served through the subsequent merger with Grant-Lafayette Electric. He served a total of 10 years as a board member, ending his career as vice-chairman of the Crawford Electric Cooperative board.



Ray was well known throughout Crawford County as he served on the Eastman Township Board, the Crawford County Board of Supervisors, the Crawford County Fair Board, and the Highway Commission for many years. He proudly drove one of his antique tractors in the Eastman Fourth of July parade for many years. Ray and Luella also left a lasting legacy by selling their farm's bottom land on the Kickapoo River to the DNA so it could be enjoyed for generations to come.

Ray and his wife, Luella, were married for 66 years. He is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. One of Ray's greatest joys during his retirement was watching his grandchildren play sports. He will be remembered fondly for teaching his grandchildren how to lick ice cream cones correctly.



FROM THE ARCHIVES



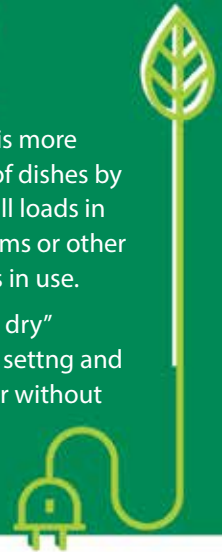
Remember when electric appliances were a new thing? Cooperatives would host shows for their members. Does anyone remember attending an annual meeting and seeing the new products? Let Judy know by calling 800-236-2141 ext 554. Also, thank you to Platt Brown and Al O'Brien who called in to name a few faces in last month's photo.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Steve Lucas, CEO

Judy Mims, Editor

206 County Road K
Lancaster, WI 53813
lancaster@srec.net

300 Barth Drive
P.O. Box 127
Darlington, WI 53530
darlington@srec.net

15985 St. Hwy. 131
Gays Mills, WI 54631
gaysmills@srec.net

608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • www.sre.coop
This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Board of Directors

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