

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

2016 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 9th at the UW Extension Office Youth & Ag Building in Lancaster, WI. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30 with a lunch afterwards. The Grant County Nurses will be there to do blood pressure checks. Focus on Energy will be there to discuss energy saving tips. If you have any questions, we will have question cards available for you to fill out prior to the meeting to go in the question box. A bus service is still available for those in Crawford or Lafayette counties, so please call our office at 800-236-2141 to reserve your seat. **A CHANGE THIS YEAR** is that the 2015 Annual Report will be inside the March issue of the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News magazine (see picture). Because of our bylaws, the post offices will begin distributing the magazine on March 9th. If you plan to attend the meeting, don't forget to cut out the registration card (on cover of the magazine) so that you can register for the door prizes. The report will also be available on our website www.sre.coop under the "About Us" heading on March 9th.

The ballots will be mailed on March 9th to members in districts 2, 6 and 7. Please be sure to mail in your ballot or come to the meeting to vote. Remember that when mailing in your ballot that you follow the instructions for your ballot to be counted. Please remember to sign the outer envelope that is marked for your signature. Our candidates for the districts are listed below:

- District 2: Sandra Davidson (incumbent) and Ken Cornish
- District 6: Don Schaefer (incumbent)
- District 7: Larry Butson (incumbent)

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on April 9th!



ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM April 9, 2016

9:00 a.m.

- Registration Begins
- Informational Booths are open.

9:30 a.m.

- Meeting called to order
- Invocation
- Introduction of Directors and Guests
- Determination of Quorum
- Minutes of the last Annual Meeting
- Election of Directors
- Audit Committee Report
- Treasurer's Report
- CEO Report
- Question and Answer Session
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Election Results
- Scholarship Winners
- Prize Drawings
- Adjournment
- Lunch served by Rooster Andy's

We will be drawing the scholarship and prize winners throughout the meeting.

- **Scholarship Drawing**

Winners *must* be present to win and be present for a picture that takes place after the meeting adjourns.

- **Prize Drawing**

This is for members who mailed in their ballots. They do not need to be present to win. The winners will have their certificate applied directly to their electric bill.

- o Six (6) \$50 certificates.

- **Prize Drawing**

To enter, members must bring registration card that is on the back cover of this report. You must be present to win. The winners will have their certificate applied directly to their electric bill.

- o One (1) \$100 certificate
- o Three (3) \$50 certificates
- o Ten (10) \$25 certificates

Top five energy users in your home

A starting point for savings

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

Adjust the temperature.

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from five to 15 percent.
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Shine the light on savings.

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

Put cold hard cash back in your wallet.

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

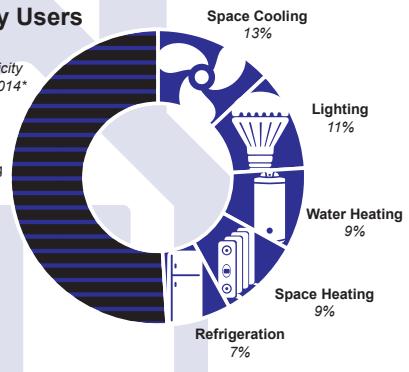
By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet. For additional ways to save, contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's energy experts at 800-236-2141.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

*Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014**

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



*Source: EIA

Wings Over Wisconsin – Southwest Chapter

Seed Day

The Southwest Chapter of Wings Over Wisconsin is hosting their annual Seed Day on Friday, April 8 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Scenic River's Energy Cooperative Lancaster site at 231 N. Sheridan. Corn, sorghum, and sunflower seed will be available free to landowners for planting on wildlife food plots. Food plots must not be harvested, but left for wildlife food and habitat.

A service is available to landowners to assist in establishing food plots. Our chapter has a 10-foot Great Plains no-till seeder, a 3-point broadcast seeder, and a John Deere 7000 2-row no-till corn/beans planter. This equipment is available for rent to members and non-members, for a fee plus delivery and pick-up charges. The seeder is also available for native prairie grass seeding. We encourage landowners to make long-term commitments to prairie grass plots.

Some seed is donated by local seed dealers, but most is purchased by our chapter with profits from our annual banquet.

For wildflower enthusiasts, we will also have for sale

small quantities of flower seed, such as Purple Cone-flower, Yellow Coneflower and Black-Eyed Susan.

Membership in Wings Over Wisconsin is not required to receive seed. However, new members are always welcome.

This is the only day that free seed is available, so if you plan to plant this spring, please be there or send your representative to pick up seed.

Lunch will be served.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source: energy.gov



DANGER! Outlet Overload

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**. These fires cause an estimated **280 deaths, 1,125 injuries and \$1.1 billion in property loss**.

Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80 percent of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

**Are you overloading outlets?
Use this formula to find out:**

WATTAGE/VOLTS=AMPS

Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used. With a 20 amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80 percent of the available current.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, Home & Garden

Recipes

Cathy Skaife (Platteville) shares a couple of her favorite recipes below for Fresh Peach Cobbler and Saucy Meatballs. Thanks Cathy!

Fresh Peach Cobbler

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4 cups fresh peaches (peeled)
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons shortening
- 1/2 cup milk



Blend 1/2 cup sugar, cornstarch and cinnamon in medium saucepan. Stir in peaches and lemon juice. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir 1 minute. Pour into 2 quart casserole pan or a 13 x 9 pan. Measure flour, 1 tablespoon sugar, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Add shortening and milk. Cut through shortening mixture until dough forms a ball. Drop dough by spoonful's onto fruit. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until biscuit topping is golden brown.

Saucy Meatballs

- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 bottle (14 ounces) ketchup
- 1 jar (12 ounces) grape jelly
- 1 medium onion finely chopped



In a large bowl, combine the eggs, bread crumbs, onion, salt and pepper. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into 1-inch balls. Place on a greased rack in a shallow baking pan. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until no longer pink. Transfer to a greased 13 x 9 baking dish. In a large saucepan, combine the ketchup and grape jelly. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes or until jelly is melted. Pour over meatballs. Bake, uncovered, for 20 minutes longer or until sauce is bubbly.

Vegetation Management

At the end of February, Zielie's Tree Service started permitting on the East, South and West circuits of the Fennimore Substation which includes townships of Wingville, Clifton, Liberty, North Lancaster, Mt Ids and portions of Fennimore. Soon after the permitting is complete, they will start trimming those areas in March.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

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Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

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Heidi Pierce Editor

Our board of directors consists of Chuck Simmons, Sandra Davidson, Don Schaefer, Dave Stute, Larry Butson, Ellen Conley, Delbert Reuter, Steve Carpenter and Marcus Saegrove.



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