



# RELIABLE POWER FOR TODAY – AND TOMORROW

By Steve Lucas, CEO

**R**inging in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the CEO of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at SREC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our service territory. You may not realize it, but SREC doesn't generate any electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our wholesale energy provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. Their energy resource mix is made up of 39% natural gas, 37% coal, and 16% wind and solar.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, SREC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions, and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, helps pinpoint the exact location of outages and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps SREC save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. Drone inspections of lines and vegetation have allowed us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability. Through the use of small drones, we can accurately monitor the health and growth of trees and identify potential problems. As technology advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric cooperatives in Wisconsin and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, SREC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.



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# TIMELINE TO 2024 DIRECTOR ELECTION

**12-15-23**

Petition forms  
available to get  
signatures

**1-14-24**

Petition  
forms due

**2-5-24**

Candidate  
biographies  
due

**4-13-24**

Annual  
Meeting at  
9:30 a.m.

Are you interested in representing your fellow members on the Board of Directors?  
Now is the time for those living in Districts 3, 4, or 8 to start the process.

## Who is on the board?

The board of directors is made up of nine cooperative members; one from each of the nine cooperative districts. If you reside in Districts, 3, 4, or 8 and you are interested in running for a seat on board, you must act quickly. The deadline for turning in the necessary paperwork is Sunday, January 14, 2024. Potential candidates must be in good standing with the cooperative and cannot be an employee of the cooperative as well as other quali

Our 2024 Annual Meeting and election will be held on Saturday, April 13, and is scheduled to be held in person at the Grant County Youth & Ag Building in Lancaster. Current Directors Charles Simmons, Ellen Conley, and Steve Carpenter are all seeking re-election. Petition forms are available on

## What does a director do?

A director represents all members of SREC and is responsible for approving general policies, annual budgets, special contracts, capital credit allocations and retirements, rate schedules, and delegating authority to the CEO to execute and carry out the daily activities of the cooperative.

For additional information about the

please refer to the Bylaws, the sample petition form, and the director district map that are available on the cooperative's website at [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop). Please contact SREC at 800-236-2141 with any questions.

## When does the board meet?

The board of directors normally meets on the last Thursday of each month for meetings beginning at 9 a.m. and regularly lasting until noon. Directors also attend occasional regional and national meetings as well as educational seminars.

## Is there any compensation?

As provided by the Bylaws, directors receive a per diem for attendance at monthly board meetings. The current per diem is \$500 per meeting.

## What is the time commitment?

From monthly meetings, SREC annual meeting, trainings and travel, the typical time commitment for board members is approximately 24 to 30 days per year.

## How do you join the board of directors?

Potential candidates must gather a minimum of 15 signatures on the petition form in order to become eligible to run for a position on the board. Petitions must be signed by 15 members who reside in the district in which the nominee resides. In the case of a joint membership, the signature of one or both joint members counts as only one (1) signature per the Bylaws. The nominee must receive service from the cooperative, at the address in the district they are interested in representing.

**District 3** – Incumbent Charles Simmons representing Bridgeport, Eastman, Prairie du Chien, and Wauzeka.

**District 4** – Incumbent Ellen Conley representing Boscobel, Castle Rock, Fennimore, Hickory Grove, Marion, Millville, Mt. Hope, Mt. Ida, Muscoda, Watterstown, Wingville, and Woodman.

**District 8** – Incumbent Steve Carpenter representing Belmont, Benton, Council Hill, Darlington, Elk Grove, Gratiot, Dendall, Monticello, New Diggings, Seymour, Shullsburg, White Oak, and Willow Springs.





# Holiday Lighting Tips



**LEDs** — Holiday lights using light-emitting diodes (LEDs) use one-tenth the energy of traditional mini-lights, and are cooler to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.



**Inspect Strings** — Beware of broken bulbs. A missing or broken bulb can lead to shocks, fires, or nasty cuts.



**GFCI Outlet** — For outdoor lighting purposes, make sure you only plug your lights into GFCI electrical outlets. All GFCI outlets will prevent shocking and all weather resistant outlets are tamper resistant.



**Hazards** — Whether your tree is live or artificial, unplug the tree lights before leaving the house or going to bed. If you have a live Christmas tree, be sure to keep it watered. In the event of a fire, a dry tree will burn much faster than a well-watered one.



**Timer** — Consider adding a programmable timer to your strings of lights to ensure lights are not accidentally left on. This also helps regulate energy use and reduce cost.



**Installing** — Always look up before decorating outdoors. Never raise ladders or extend objects into or near power lines. Always use plastic hooks. Staples, tacks, and nails can pierce Christmas light strands and create a potential electrical shock.



**Never** — Avoid overloading electrical outlets, extension cords, or power strips with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.



**Guidelines** — Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on how many strings of lights can be safely connected together.

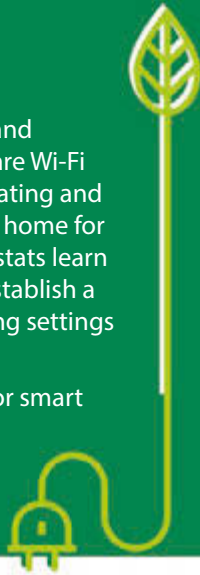


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## FROM THE ARCHIVES



All we know about this photo is that instead of getting a visit from Santa, these children are getting a visit from... Willie Wiredhand! If you can tell us anything more about this picture, please call SREC at 800-236-2141.

## Not sure what to gift for the holidays? SREC Gift Certificates are available!



Call our office at 800-236-2141 to learn how to obtain a gift certificate.





Steve Lucas, CEO

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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