



Steve Lucas, CEO

THANKFUL FOR CO-OPS

When things get really tough, you can count on cooperatives

We certainly have a lot to be thankful for this year. While our service territory was hit with its share of severe storms in 2017, we didn't experience weather-related devastation on the scale that some of our fellow co-ops down south did after first Hurricane Harvey and then Hurricane Irma hit earlier this fall. Some of the storms we experienced—especially the back-to-back storms that struck in July—caused damage to our system and subsequent power interruptions. However, there were thankfully no fatalities or even injuries as a result of these storms, and everyone's power was restored within 24 hours. Not everyone in Texas and Florida was so lucky.

I am also thankful, however, in knowing that if and when we aren't so lucky ourselves, we'll be able to lean on other electric cooperatives for help. That's just what co-ops do—they pull together when a situation calls for it. It's part of the sixth cooperative principle: Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

We've had to ask for assistance ourselves, such as we did this past summer when line workers from nearby Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative helped us restore power to our members after Round 2 of the July storms. Wisconsin's electric co-ops have long benefited from our ROPE program (Restoration of Power in an Emergency).

But this kind of help is not limited by state boundaries. Nationwide, electric cooperatives call on each other in times of need, and that call is answered willingly. Four of our own SREC line workers—Tory Henkel and Shane Crowley from the Lancaster office, Reggie Lomas from the Gays Mills office, and Matt Ritchie from the Darlington office—were part of the 52-person contingent of electric co-op line personnel from 18 of our state's electric co-ops that stepped up when the Florida electric cooperative statewide association asked for help. You can read more details about their experiences on page 10. These guys worked 16-hour days in hot, muggy, and very wet conditions helping to restore power to members of Clay Electric Cooperative near Gainesville. Almost all of Clay Electric's 130,000 members were without power at one point.

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Alone, recovery would have been a hugely daunting task for Clay Electric, but with so many helping hands and a well organized effort, the work was finished much more quickly than anyone anticipated. Our crews left for Florida on Monday, September 11, and were safely back home in southwest Wisconsin Wednesday, September 20.

I want to emphasize that although these four men willingly left their homes and families for almost a week and a half to help others in need, every single person on the SREC team played a role in these hurricane recovery efforts. We operate with as lean a staff as possible; going without four members of our crew for over a week means others have to step up, and they did. I am very proud of, and extremely thankful for, all of our employees here at SREC.



Left to right: Matt Ritchie, Tory Henkel, Shane Crowley, and Reggie Lomas



MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's 2016 Member Photo Contest for November was taken by Thomas Jones of Boscobel. 2018 calendars, featuring winning photos from our 2017 Member Photo Contest, are available at our offices in Lancaster, Gays Mills, and Darlington while supplies last.



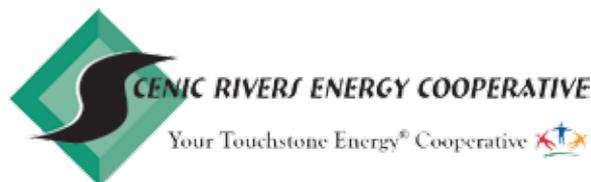
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CONGRATULATIONS

Winners of the 2018 Member Photo Contest

Congratulations to the winners of our 2017 Member Photo Contest! Their photographs capturing the scenic beauty of rural southwest Wisconsin are featured in the 2018 Member Calendar, available now at each of SREC's offices, in Lancaster, Gays Mills, and Darlington. Pick one up while supplies last!



And keep snapping! We'll have another Member Photo Contest in 2018. Watch upcoming issues of this magazine as well as our website, www.sre.coop, for contest details.

January	Michael Bradley
February	Pamela Rigotti
March	Laura Coglean
April	Ron Uhe
May	Ana Ramaker
June	Ana Ramaker
July	Karen Hlavacek
August	Richard & Rhonda Wiedenbeck
September	Tamara Nelson
October	Robert & Nancy Dowling
November	Anna Robbins
December	Dennis & Nancy Ball

Honorable mentions:

Mark Steffensmeier	Jemma Holden	Jessie Bird
Gary S. Cohen	Nancy Pagenkopf	Mike Momot
Michael Bradley		

These photos took honorable mention honors in the 2017 Member Photo Contest. Thanks to all of our talented members who shared their works of art with us. We hope you enjoy these photos as much as we do!



Nancy Bierman

Location: Beetown

View from a canoe on the Grant River



Karan Hlavacek

Location: Argyle

Early autumn morning on Hidden Valley Lake



Jeff Kopsell

Location: Lafayette County
Sunrise over County Road N



Deb Luther

Location: Darlington
Bluebird at home



Siri Walby

Location: Soldiers Grove (Century Acres Farm)
Rainbow over the hills



Michael Bradley

Location: Lafayette County



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE TESTED THIS MONTH

Members who participate in SREC's dual fuel, off-peak heating program will experience a test of the load management system on Wednesday, November 15. On this day, the electric load on your dual fuel panel will be interrupted for four to six hours starting at 5 p.m. Restoral will begin at 9 p.m., with all power restored by 11 p.m.



This test is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe your control device (*pictured at right*) to ensure that the indicator lights on your load-control receiver function properly, and to check that your heating system and/or back-up heating system is working properly before winter sets in.

Please check to see that your heating system is working properly during the test. If you notice any problems with our load management receiver, contact the cooperative. If you have any questions regarding this test, call SREC, 800-236-2141.

ENERGY REBATES DUE DECEMBER 31

If you're trying to finish up some home-improvement projects before the cold weather hits, remember that we have rebates that may help you with projects that boost your home's energy efficiency. Rebates are available for purchase of qualified Energy Star-rated appliances, installation of new heating and cooling systems, and energy-efficient lighting, to name a few. Check them out our website, www.sre.coop; click on Energy Rebates under the Programs and Services tab.

Rebates are in place through December 31, 2017, or until funds are depleted.

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