



WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Notice of Annual Meeting – Rescheduled

While we cannot host our members at our traditional Annual Meeting, that doesn't mean business isn't continuing at SREC. Pursuant to our bylaws, we are supposed to hold our Annual Meeting during the first six months of each calendar year. 2020 is proving to be a challenging year for us all, but we are moving forward in the best interest of our members and your cooperative.

Therefore, we will be hosting our members at our first ever, [virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m.](#) While we cannot gather, share a meal, or shake our members' hands, we can share important information with you and we can conduct business as required and needed. Each member will receive a postcard in the coming days with information about how to attend our Annual Meeting "virtually" – that is, through the Internet.

Our Annual Meeting will include elections of Board Members in districts 1, 5, and 9. The Audit Committee and Treasurer's report will be given. Our CEO and Chairman will also address the membership. Finally, we will select and announce the scholarship winners. Students, and their parent or guardian, who have applied for our annual scholarships will need to register and login as outlined below. Once logged in to the meeting, they will be entered into the drawing.

Lastly, we will draw for door prize winners. Each member who attends will receive a \$5 bill credit. 6 prizes of \$50 each will be awarded to members who mailed their ballots in. An additional drawing for the following prizes will be drawn from the members who are logged in to the meeting: One \$100 prize, three \$50 prizes, and ten \$25 prizes. All door prizes will be applied directly to the winners' July bill statement.

So, how do you attend the virtual Annual Meeting?

- Prior to the meeting time, pre-register by entering your information at: www.sre.coop/annualmeeting2020
- Be sure to have your billing account number handy when you register.
- You will receive an email with your link to the meeting – save it for use on May 23.
- On Saturday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m. log in using the link previously emailed to you.
- We recommend logging in a few minutes before 9:00 a.m. so that you don't miss the opening remarks.
- If you no longer have your Annual Report, previously mailed in March, the documents will be available during the meeting online and on our website- www.sre.coop.

If you have not returned your election ballot, you still can. Ballots will be accepted until 4 pm on Friday, May 22, 2020 at our Lancaster office. You may drop them off in our deposit box prior to that time, or mail the ballot via the U.S. Postal Service. Ballots will not be accepted or counted after May 22. Since you will not be able to attend the meeting in person and cast a ballot, returning your ballot by May 22nd is the only way to vote.

We hope that you will join us for our virtual Annual Meeting.



Reflect and Honor: May is Military Appreciation Month

We hope that we will also be able to enjoy various Memorial Day festivities this month. Even if we cannot gather in groups, we hope you will join us in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. Historically, Decoration Day was first observed on May 5, 1865 in the U.S., with the tradition of decorating soldiers' graves from the Civil War with flowers. The observance date was later moved to May 30th and included American graves from World War I and World War II, and became better known as Memorial Day. In 1971, Congress moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May, thus creating a three-day holiday weekend. We salute all our military veterans and active duty members on May 25.



May Is Electrical Safety Month

We use electricity every day. This invisible force has become so commonplace that it can be all too easy to overlook possible electrical hazards, even in the safety of our own homes. May is Electrical Safety Month, and a good time to put the most important safety tool you have—your brain—to work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration warns that electrical current levels as low as 3 milliamperes can result in injury. In a 2009 report on electrocutions associated with consumer products, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated an average of 70 fatalities per year (from 2007 to 2009). The most common product categories associated with these electrocutions were small appliances, large appliances, and power tools.

Knowing what to be on the lookout for and knowing the safe steps to take can make all the difference in preventing accidents. Safe Electricity offers the following home safety tips to help arm you with the knowledge to stay safe and help others stay safe.

- Always read and understand the operator's manual before using an appliance or tool.
- Make sure recognized safety laboratories, like UL, ETL, or CSA have certified the electrical appliance, tools, and cords you plan on using.
- Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.
- Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.

- Only use extension cords properly rated for the devices you plan to plug into it.
- For the safety of children in your home, install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.
- If your outlets are warm to the touch, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker, and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCIs) in areas that may be wet or damp. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they are working properly.
- Never use power tools outdoors if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



And now for something a little different . . .

It's been said many different ways that history has much to teach us. Here are just a few tidbits for all our life-long learners and also for the many students in our service territory who are learning via technology.

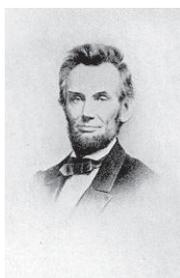
May 10, 1869 - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah. A golden



spike was driven by Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, to celebrate the linkage. It is said that he missed the spike on his first swing which brought roars of laughter from men who had driven thousands upon thousands of spikes themselves.

May 14, 1804 - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.



May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600-mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.

May 26, 1940 - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by June 2nd.



May 27, 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

(Photo and picture credits: Library of Congress and U.S. National Archives) ■

Visit our newly designed web-site – www.sre.coop

Look out for scams

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang-up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). SREC will never ask you to offer up personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact us at 800-236-2141.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:



- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang-up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang-up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.
- The Better Business Bureau has also issued a new scam alert. You may have extra time to surf the web these days, and 'Get to Know Me' quizzes seem like a fun, innocent way to share a bit about yourself while connecting with friends and family online, right? Wrong! Some of the online quizzes were created by scammers to gather personal information for nefarious purposes.

SREC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy.



Vegetation Management

Ziele's Tree Service has completed the tree trimming on the Gays Mills Substation in Crawford County. The crews have moved to the Soldiers Grove west circuit in Crawford County. They continue to permit portions of the Soldiers Grove Substation, but due to the current Safer at Home order, they have been contacting land owners via telephone.

Badgerland Utility Solutions LLC has completed the underground inspections in Lafayette County and will be finishing up inspections in southern Grant County on the Kaiser Substation. They have also completed the pole inspections in Little Grant and Beetown Townships in Grant County and will be continuing inspections in South Lancaster Township.

JJ Vondrum & Sons has started the underground work for new services, service upgrades, line changes and Work Plan projects throughout our service territory.

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. During this time, we especially appreciate your cooperation as we maintain social distancing between our essential staff and our members. **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, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

Steve LucasCEO

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