

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Notification of Election of Directors in Districts 3, 4 and 8

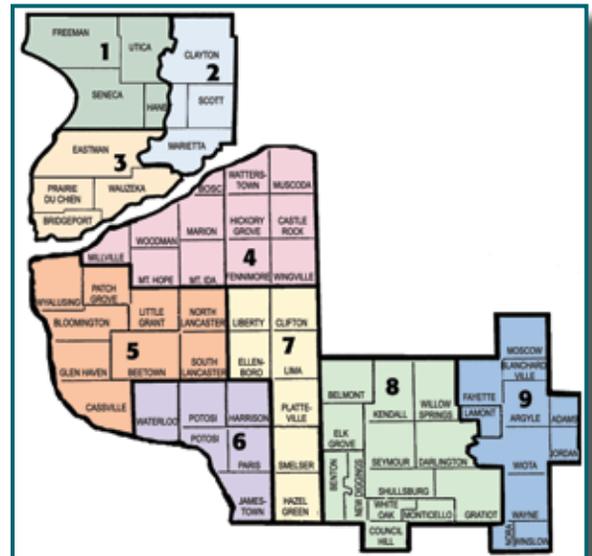
The terms of the directors in Districts 3, 4, and 8 expire at the 2018 annual meeting, when elections will be held for those position. All three incumbent directors are seeking re-election- Chuck Simmons (District 3), Ellen Conley (District 4) and Steve Carpenter (District 8). The Bylaws provide for nomination of candidates by petition. A petition must meet the following requirement:

- The petition must be signed by 15 or more members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. You may begin getting signatures for your petition on December 15, 2017 (but not before).
- The members signing the petition must reside in the same district the nominee would represent.
- In the case of a joint membership or a tenancy in common membership, one or all of the joint or common members may sign the petition, but whether only one signs or all sign it only counts as one (1) signature.
- The petition must be delivered to the Cooperative's headquarters in Lancaster at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting (April 14, 2018) – that is, no later than on January 14, 2018.

To be eligible to run for director, a candidate must meet all of the qualifications set forth in the Bylaws.

Those qualifications include:

- The candidate must be a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and s/he must reside in the district to be represented. (See the map of the director districts included as part of this notice.)
- The candidate cannot:
 - be employed by or have a financial interest in a business that competes with the Cooperative or that sells energy or supplies to the Cooperative;
 - hold or be a candidate for a public office that is elected on a party ticket;
 - have been employed by the Cooperative anytime in the past 5 years;
 - participated as a party or a witness in any litigation against the Cooperative in the past 5 years;
 - be delinquent more than 90 days on the payment of any amount owed the Cooperative; or



- have been convicted of any offense involving dishonesty.
- The candidate must participate in an orientation process to assure an understanding of the responsibilities of directors (unless s/he is currently serving as a director). Information about that orientation will be provided to all qualified candidates nominated by petitions as described above.

In the case of a joint tenancy or tenancy in common membership, all the joint or common members must meet all of those qualifications in order for any one of the joint or common members to be eligible to be nominated.

As provided by the Bylaws, directors receive a monthly per diem. The current per diem is \$500 monthly.

For additional information about the petition process or the qualifications for director, 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. ■

Holiday lighting tips

This year is rapidly drawing to a close and that means the holiday lighting season is back. If your home space is in need of a decorative refresh, here are some tips to take your artistic stylings to the next level. There are two areas to cover, so let's get started.

Safety is up first. If your lights are ground mounted or can be installed standing on the floor or ground, you can skip ahead. However, since most decorations involve some installation at height, you need to do the following:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations...an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
3. Don't overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
4. Don't overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Most of these tips apply equally to inside and outside decorating activities.

Light selection is next. If at all possible, invest in LED lights this season. Unlike the first versions to hit the market that were characterized by rather harsh and unattractive colors, the newest generation's colors are reminiscent of the incandescent lights of yore.

Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, whether the large or mini bulb, LEDs will last for many, many years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out. Aside from physically destroying the bulb, the LED is amazingly robust. Given the modest number of hours of operation, you can expect LEDs to last seven or more years.

Then there is the cost of operation benefit from LEDs. These gems of technological advancement truly sip electricity. A reasonable estimate of power consumption is 7 watts per 100 lights. How does that compare to the old incandescent? Each of those bulbs used 12 watts so a string of 100 devoured 1200 watts.

Truly want to manage the cost of operating holiday lights? Invest in timers to turn the lights on and off automatically. Really into gadgets? Invest in a smart plug for your lights you can program and control from your smart phone.

Once you have your design finalized and installed, it is my recommendation to leave as much of the outside portion of lights in place. No, don't be that person who leaves the holiday lights on all year. Simply disconnect

them after the holidays, protecting the plugs and sockets from dirt and debris. Think of the reduced stress and risk if you set and forget your design. With the longevity of the LEDs, you can enjoy this freedom and practically eliminate the risks associated with high-wire seasonal gymnastics.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues 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. ■



MERRY, BRIGHT AND EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill! Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.

- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED® lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age-old standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.
- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

Source: Dept. of Energy

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). Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will never ask you to offer up personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our office at 1-800-236-2141.
- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative that needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.



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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit **www.energystar.gov/productfinder** for a full list of efficient products.

Source: energystar.gov



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us at 1-800-236-2141, or visit our website www.sre.coop.

Meghaan Evans 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. ■

Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your Holiday Meatball recipe! "This recipe has a unique twist that takes meatballs from savory to slightly sweet."

Holiday Meatballs

- 1-1/2 lbs Ground Turkey
- 1-1/4 c. Herbed Stuffing Bread Crumbs
- 1/2 c. Dried Cranberries
- 1 large egg or 2 small eggs
- 1/4 c. Sweet Onion, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp. Chopped Fresh Sage
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1/4 tsp. Pepper
- 1 tbsp. Olive Oil

Preheat oven to 450. Coat 9x13 pan with olive oil and set aside. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Form into balls the size of a golf ball. Bake for about 20 minutes until they are cooked through. Serve with a gravy and/or cranberry sauce for dipping.



Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your Texas Caviar recipe! "This is always made at Christmas time for our family."

Texas Caviar

- 2 - 11 oz cans of Shoepeg Corn
- 1 - 15 oz can Pinto Beans
- 1 - 15 oz can Blackeye Peas
- 1 - 15 oz can Black Beans
- 1 - 2 oz diced Pimientos
- 1 Red or Green Pepper diced
- 1 Onion or as much as you want
- Celery optional

Drain all cans and put in a bowl. Mix together 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup vinegar and 1 cup oil. Heat until sugar dissolves. Let cool. Then pour over corn and bean mixture.

Refrigerate 24 hours. Serve with Tostitos Dipper Chips. Make sure you buy 2 bags of chips with this recipe.



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service, Inc. will be finishing up the Steuben Substation in Crawford County.

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.

WATT'S HAPPENING

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

Steve Lucas CEO
Heidi Pierce Editor

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



printed on recycled paper