

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

September 2022

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

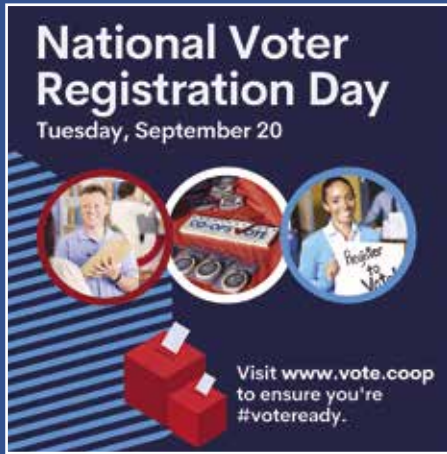
MIDWEST LEADS  
ELECTRIC SCHOOL  
BUS TRANSITION

WILD WISCONSIN  
PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

THE HEART OF CLEGHORN

TAYLOR ELECTRIC DELEGATE  
ELECTED TO STATEWIDE  
YOUTH BOARD





## FIVE EASY WAYS TO EXERCISE YOUR CIVIC DUTY

While Taylor Electric Cooperative is a locally owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is September 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you want to get involved or simply make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

1. **Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date.** Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop), then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.
2. **Get informed.** In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.
3. **Get active on social media.** Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and let others know you're a #coopvoter and #VoteReady; encourage your friends and family to do the same.
4. **Help others prepare to vote.** Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events)), volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections, or offer to drive others to their polling places.
5. **Vote!** It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.

We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community, and make a collective impact.



Kenneth Ceagske, President/CEO

## NET METERING AND SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

Taylor Electric, along with most other utilities in the state, offers programs where members can offset some of the usage at their residence via renewable energy resources. Typically, what we see are solar installations. These systems are designed to work in coordination with the electric system—they are not designed as a stand-alone power source, or as a for-profit installation. With that in mind, it is vitally critical that TEC is made aware of these installations as there is a potential safety risk if the systems do not stop generating electricity during an outage affecting the location. Part of the safety procedures for the crew is to test and ground the lines before working on them. If the solar installation does not stop putting power on the lines at the time that the crews are working on the system, the power can cause serious injury or death to the line crew. Also, an important note: Your equipment can be harmed by feeding into the damaged line.

It is vitally critical that TEC is made aware of these installations as there is a potential safety risk if the systems do not stop generating electricity during an outage affecting the location.

The typical procedure for new solar installations is to notify the office and fill out the application that verifies what is being installed, who the installer is, output of the system, and verify that Taylor Electric's equipment at the site is sufficient. After the install is finished and the final agreement is completed, Taylor Electric personnel will do a site visit to test and verify the isolation during a brief outage at your location. After this process, you can enjoy the reduction in usage from our lines, and possibly a credit on your bill for any excess production.

Our metering system has become more sophisticated recently and can identify activity that looks like power coming into the system. As mentioned above, this creates a potential safety issue for our crews. If we find such a situation, we will follow up with you and give you a brief amount of time to get the system up to the proper standards and verified or we will be forced to disconnect the service as it presents a known safety hazard to our crews. As an additional benefit to you, if you have the proper agreements and verification, you are eligible for any overproduction credits.



# FUN-FILLED YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS HELD AT UW-STOUT



## TAYLOR ELECTRIC DELEGATE ELECTED TO YOUTH BOARD

For the first time in two years, teens returned to an in-person Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) and for the first time ever, the event was held at University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie. More than 60 teens from electric cooperatives across the state gathered for the three-day event, held July 12–14.

Taylor Electric was represented by Theodore Robisch, son of Matthew and Sara Robisch, Rib Lake, as well as Board Secretary/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf, who chaperoned the event. During their time at YLC, they stayed in the dorms at UW-Stout and lived on campus.

Activities were hands-on experiences aimed at strengthening leadership skills. Presentations included an appearance by Will Tuchtenhagen, former YLC board member and recipient of the 2021 Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation's \$10,000 Scholarship, and a session on "breakthrough leadership" by motivational speaker and author Craig Hillier. The youth attended a career fair and spoke with representatives from various organizations



Taylor Electric's YLC delegate, Theodore Robisch, dressed up for the formal etiquette dinner.



The newly elected YLC Board— Top row, L to R: Molly Damm (Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op), Theodore Robisch (Taylor Electric Co-op), and Daniel Duetsch (Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services). Bottom row: Constance Clark-Bailey (Scenic Rivers Energy Co-op), alternate Emma Steinke (Rock Energy Co-op), and KC Rose (Chippewa Valley Electric Co-op). Not pictured: Samantha Hopkins (Rock Energy Co-op).





about potential cooperative careers. They took in a safety presentation that focused on the dangers of texting and driving and what to do if you are in an accident and come into contact with power lines or equipment. All of the students attending YLC are eligible to enter the WECA essay contest, which offers scholarship money to the top three winners.

Another great opportunity for the teens attending the event was to run for Youth Board, which included gathering signatures, conducting interviews, and delivering a speech before the group-wide vote at the conclusion of the event. Theodore ran and was elected to the board and will help plan the 2023 Youth Leadership Congress. Youth Board members will also be invited to attend the 2023 NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., next summer and will return to YLC in 2023 as team leaders.

Congratulations, Theodore!

I'm just writing to thank you all for the opportunity to attend the YLC camp at UW Stout this year. It was a really great experience, and I had a lot of fun. I met a lot of amazing people and all of the speakers and events they had there for us were really interesting. I am extremely excited to represent our co-op next summer on the Youth Board for YLC and the DC trip. Hopefully I can help people with getting on the Youth Board next year like the members from this year did with me. Thank you again for this awesome opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Theodore Robisch



Above: Director Cheri Klussendorf, who served as a YLC chaperone, and Theodore Robisch prepare to leave for Menomonie.

Right: YLC District 4 students won best attitude and participation. Front Row, L to R: Theodore Robisch (Taylor), Kylie Kline (Adams-Columbia), Malea Tessen (Central), Delaney Salm (Oakdale), Ellaree Young (SREC), Lauren Thompson (Youth Board member St. Croix). Back Row, L to R: Daniel Norman (Rock), Joe Venner (Oakdale), Elizabeth Colwell (Oakdale), Roslyn Malacina (Oakdale), Layla Czapleswki (Pierce Pepin), Lucy Joyce (Richland).



# SEPTEMBER IS BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

## Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving

Some temptations are hard to resist. For some it's especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake. For others, it's answering that text.

While driving, we typically hear that "ding" on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn't, but we reason that we're going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous, and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects, and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the United States involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. This statistic is heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we'd simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five

September is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, it's a good time to remind folks of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist's attention off

seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see our line crews conducting work near the roadside, move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Taylor Electric, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you'll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: That text can wait, and waiting just might save a life.



**Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO**

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