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EVENTS

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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

May 2016

Get back to Nature

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner





Youth Leadership Congress

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

UW-River Falls | July 13-15, 2016



The annual **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.

Take the opportunity to...

- See **what makes the cooperative business model different and successful**, and then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with professionals in the industry.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and address topics that are important and relevant in your life.

This is a **by-teens, for-teens conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Who should apply?

- Students who will be sophomores or juniors next year, and whose parents are members of Taylor Electric Cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

What does it cost?

- All registration costs are covered by the generous support of electric cooperatives and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.
- Interested students should fill out the form below and return it to Taylor Electric Cooperative.

MY CO-OP



Youth Leadership Congress Participant Application Form

First Name(s) _____ Last Name(s) _____

Sponsoring cooperative _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gender _____ Grade entering in fall 2016 _____

Parent email (used to send links to online health forms) _____

Return this completed form to Taylor Electric Cooperative, N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451



MEMBERS MARK CO-OP'S 80TH YEAR AT ANNUAL MEETING

Members of Taylor Electric Cooperative marked their organization's 80th year in business, learned about a new solar energy project, and re-elected incumbent board members as they gathered for their annual meeting Saturday, March 12, at Medford High School.

They also heard about the factors necessitating a rate increase this year, the co-op's first since 2012. A 2.65 percent increase in the cost of wholesale power is driving the need for a rate hike, they learned, wholesale electricity purchases accounting for 60 percent of the cooperative's total expenses. Taylor electric is working with rate analysts from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) to better manage cost allocations, with attention directed to the facility charge, off-peak rates, and unbundling wholesale rates, it was reported.

President and CEO Mike Schaefer discussed Dairyland Power Coopera-

tive's recently announced solar energy expansion project, pointing out that rural Medford and the Taylor Electric system will host a 2-megawatt facility, second largest among the 11 to be built, and that several additional sites are a possibility.

With 2 megawatts of rated capacity, Schaefer said, Dairyland's Medford site would be capable of generating 20 times the power of Taylor Electric's own Bright Horizons community solar project.

WECA Statewide Manager Steve Freese, with nine months on the job, introduced himself to the members and delivered a presentation focused on state and federal issues confronting electric cooperatives. He emphasized the anticipated impact of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, noting that it has the potential to turn past co-op investments in environmental upgrades into hundreds of millions of dollars in stranded costs.

Celebrating
**Taylor Electric
Cooperative**
1936–2016 **80**
Years

Four candidates participated in elections for three seats on the co-op's board of directors, with Steve Suchomel challenging and incumbents Dennis Engel, Ray Henrichs, and JoAnn Smith seeking new terms. Multiple ballots were held, with the three incumbents ultimately re-elected.

A reorganization following the annual meeting kept incumbent board officers in place, with Dean Tesch continuing as chairman, Chuck Zenner as vice-chairman, and Patricia Waldhart as secretary-treasurer.

**May is
National
Electrical
Safety Month**

Help prevent home fires! Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home – and tested every month.

#electricalsafetymonth



Whether you're dreaming up a deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, now is the time to get started on your outdoor improvement plans.

But if your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the

majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post

can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.—
Source: Common Ground Alliance

Why should you call Diggers Hotline?

- **Safety** – Before digging, you should always know what's below for the safety of you, your family, neighbors, and the general public. There are numerous factors that could cause buried utility lines to shift and come closer to the surface. So even if you think you know where lines are, call first to avoid a potentially dangerous situation.
- **Cost** – Identifying underground lines can save you big time in potential costs! If you accidentally damage an underground facility, as a homeowner you are responsible for the cost of any damage and replacement lines. So why risk it? Make the call!
- **It's the law** – Wisconsin State law requires all homeowners and/or contractors to contact Diggers Hotline before any digging that disrupts the ground's surface.
- **It's completely free** – When you find something free that can save you money and prevent potential injuries, why wouldn't you do it?



*Taylor Electric Cooperative's
office will be closed
Monday, May 30,
for Memorial Day.*



Taylor Electric Cooperative
**BRIGHT
 HORIZONS**

WE'VE MADE IT EASIER AND MORE AFFORDABLE!

- ***Purchase one unit of solar for \$930 or purchase a half unit of solar for \$465.***
- ***Can't pay all at once? No problem! Make monthly payments until the end of 2016.***
- ***Now available for you to purchase for your non-profit organizations (served by Taylor Electric).***

If you like the idea of going green with solar power, but don't have the site or the budget to install solar panels of your own, we have a solution for you. The Bright Horizons Community Solar Garden is a 100.8 kilowatt solar array located at Taylor Electric's headquarters. Units of solar can be purchased for \$930 or half unit for \$465. Any member of the cooperative may participate by signing a Solar Subscription Agreement and making a \$300 down payment. The bill can be paid in full or monthly payments can be made through 12/31/16.

Bright Horizons is interconnected with the grid, so all the energy produced here goes directly onto the cooperative's distribution lines. That means all power produced by the solar array is being used right here in our community.

Call us today at 715-678-2411 for more information.



Michael Schaefer, President/CEO

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 website: www.tayloelectric.org

Lainie Kellnofer, Editor

