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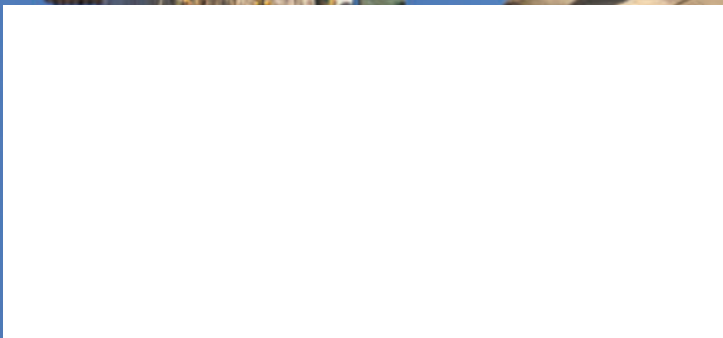
# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* April 2018 NEWS

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LINEWORKER

**Taylor Electric  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday, April 7**

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC**  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



# THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER



As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Taylor Electric strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

## One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers per-

form, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done, and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Taylor Electric lineworkers are responsible for keeping 863 miles of lines across four counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays, or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires, or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.





## CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ALLOCATED SOON

In the next month or two, you will receive a capital credit allocation notice from Taylor Electric Cooperative. In addition to your member number, the notice will provide your prior year's balance, total amount of your electric bills in 2017, your 2017 allocation, the amount returned in 2017, and your new balance. Members with more than one account will receive one combined notice.

To avoid confusion, there are three things you should know about your capital credit allocation notice:

- **It is not a bill, so do not pay the amount shown on the face.**
- **It is not a credit that can be used to pay an electric bill.**
- **There is no provision in Taylor Electric's bylaws to make early payment of capital credits to those members who leave the service area. It is import-**

**ant that we be provided with a current address so when the time comes to pay, we'll know where to mail the check.**

The capital credit allocation notice represents the amount of ownership you have in your cooperative. In future years, this amount may be returned to you as a capital credit check. Meanwhile, your capital credits are an investment in the cooperative's electric distribution system. Member investments, capital credits, and long-term loans are the only sources of funding for the co-op; there are no outside investors.

You will receive a capital credit allocation notice only for the years in which you are a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative. It is a good idea to keep all of your notices with other important documents as a record for future years. Members with questions concerning capital credits are encouraged to contact our office.

## CONGRATULATIONS, DAN!

### TEC lineman retires after 39 years

Congratulations to Dan Fuchs on his retirement from Taylor Electric on January 31 after 39 years with the cooperative. Dan began working at Taylor Electric on April 30, 1979, as a lineman and in 2013 was promoted to lead lineman, a position he held until he retired.

Dan witnessed many changes in the electric industry, but perhaps one of the most memorable experiences was when he and then co-worker, Randy Gale, went to Louisiana to aid in the restoral of power due to the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Washington-Saint Tammany Electric Cooperative of Louisiana was looking for linemen to assist in restoring power to their 47,000-member cooperative.

Dan recalled, "The camaraderie between the workers and the people of Louisiana was amazing. It was hard to leave knowing not everyone had power restored. There was a lot of work remaining when we went home. I am very grateful to Taylor Electric for making it possible to be a part of this humanitarian act to help the people of Louisiana. I would do it again in a heartbeat."

It was that kind of dedication and commitment that Dan displayed in his daily work at the cooperative. We wish him the best in his retirement!



**WE'VE MADE IT EASIER AND MORE AFFORDABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT!**

- Purchase one unit of solar for \$842 or purchase a half unit of solar for \$421.
- Can't pay all at once? No problem! Make monthly payments until the end of 2018.
- Now available for you to purchase and donate the output to your favorite local, non-profit organization.

**Check out the new pricing and options now available!**

**Call us today at 715-678-2411!**

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY SAVING ENERGY

If you want to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, start by making your home more energy efficient. Below are three efficiency tips from energy expert Brian Sloboda of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



- 1. Look around your home for no-cost ways to be efficient.** Close the curtains in the summer and open them in the winter. Turn off your computers overnight. Also, turn off video game consoles when they're not being used. Better yet, keep them off and send the kids outside to play baseball.
- 2. Look for small steps you can take and DIY.** Caulk around drafty windows. Check the attic for the correct amount of insulation. Switch to LED light bulbs. Plant a deciduous tree on the sunny side of your house; in a few years the leaves will cool your home against the sun in summer, then fall off to warm it in the winter. Old cable TV boxes use a lot of energy. If yours is not ENERGY STAR-rated, call your cable provider and ask for a new one. If you have a major appliance—like a refrigerator, washing machine, or dryer—that's more than 10 years old, don't repair it. The energy efficiency of a newer, ENERGY STAR-rated model will likely pay for itself with energy savings in a few years.
- 3. Contact Taylor Electric Cooperative about energy-saving programs.** We can direct you to energy-saving resources like Togetherwesave.com, and we offer rebates that help you save on home energy-efficiency improvements.

## DON'T FORGET...

Taylor Electric Cooperative's 82nd annual meeting is **SATURDAY, APRIL 7** at the Medford Area Senior High School. Business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.



# WE'LL HELP YOU PAY FOR COLLEGE



## Apply for scholarships by April 6

Taylor Electric Cooperative is awarding six \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Funding for the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits.

Students living in households that receive their electric service from Taylor Electric and who will be graduating from high school in 2018 are eligible.

Final selection for the scholarship recipients will be made by the board of directors, with the cooperation of those schools involved. If you are interested, please complete the accompanying request form and return it to our office by April 6, 2018.

NOTE: The funds for these scholarships are derived from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that unclaimed refunds may be used for educational and charitable purposes. Otherwise, they become unclaimed property and must be paid to the State of Wisconsin as such.

### Taylor Electric College Scholarship Application Request

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Electric Account \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

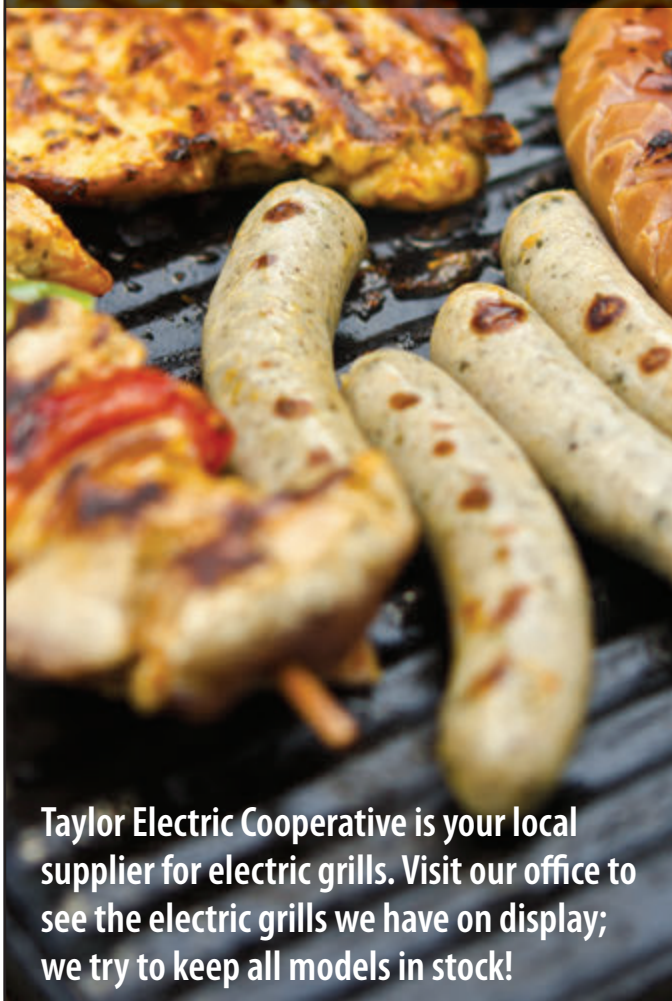
TEC Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

High School (or indicate if home-schooled) \_\_\_\_\_



# Great GRILLING

starts at Taylor Electric Cooperative



Taylor Electric Cooperative is your local supplier for electric grills. Visit our office to see the electric grills we have on display; we try to keep all models in stock!

## Meco Deluxe Cart Grill

\$180 each plus tax

- 215 square-inch cooking grid
- Temperature control knob
- Reflector pan allows for increased heat
- Fold-away wooden side tables



## Meco Lock & Go Portable Grill

\$70 each plus tax

- Converts into a portable charcoal grill
- 214 square-inch cooking grid
- Double hood vents
- Locking hood for easy portability
- Stay-cool wooden handle
- Environmentally safe, high temperature, paint finish
- Thermostatic control for variable heat settings



## Meco Deluxe Electric Combo Water Smoker and Grill

\$95 each plus tax

- 1,650-watt heating element
- 351 square inches of usable cooking surface
- Two nickel-plated cooking grids with handles for two-level cooking
- Sliding access doors for checking and adding to the water and wood chip levels
- Built-in temperature gauge
- Flavor channels direct smoke for maximum food flavoring and add structural strength to the smoker
- Heavy-duty, reinforced steel legs for extra strength and durability



**ELECTRIC GRILLS:** Easy to use, easy to clean, economical to operate, no messy lighter fluid or gas fumes. *Pick up yours today and start grilling!*

### Michael Schaefer, President/CEO

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### Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Through **Taylor Electric Cooperative's** partnership with **Focus on Energy**, you can take advantage of the latest energy saving technology.

For a limited time, get access to these **free and discounted** energy saving kits.



## Select from various products, including:

- Philips Hue White Starter Kit & TrickleStar 7-Outlet Multi Sensing Advanced Power Strip (**FREE**)
- Emerson Sensi Wi-Fi Programmable Thermostat (**FREE**)
- Nest Thermostat E (**FREE**)
- Nest Learning Thermostat (**\$120 Copay**)
- ecobee4 Smart Thermostat (**\$120 Copay**)

**LIMITED  
TIME  
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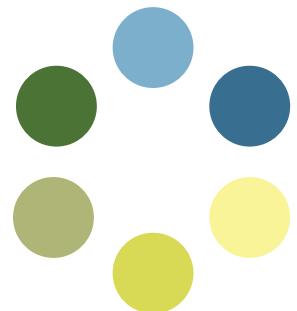
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