

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS


May 2019

TEAMWORK TIME



TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Youth Leadership Congress



UW–River Falls | July 24–26, 2019



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

Name _____

Account Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gender _____ Grade entering in fall 2019 _____

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



TAYLOR ELECTRIC DIRECTOR ELECTED OFFICER OF CFC BOARD

Taylor Electric Cooperative Board Chairman Dean Tesch was among those who were elected officers of the board of directors of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) following the CFC 2019 Annual Membership Meeting in March in Orlando.

Kent D. Farmer, president and CEO of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative in Fredericksburg, Virginia, was elected president of the board; Tesch was elected vice president; and Alan W. Wattles, president and CEO of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative in Waterloo, Illinois, will fill the board secretary-treasurer post.

Farmer was first seated on the board in 2014, representing District 1. Tesch and Wattles both represent District 5 and were seated in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

CFC is governed by a democratically elected, 23-member board of directors. The board represents 10 geographic districts and NRECA, with one at-large position. Directors are elected from the districts for a three-year term and can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

About CFC

Created and owned by America's electric cooperative network, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)—a nonprofit finance cooperative with nearly \$27 billion in assets—provides unparalleled industry expertise, flexibility, and responsiveness to serve the needs of our member-owners. CFC is an equal opportunity provider. Visit CFC online at www.nrucfc.coop.



Taylor Electric Board Chairman Dean Tesch delivers a CFC report at WECA's recent Education and Lobby Days in Madison.

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's how we get to work when you find yourself in the dark:

- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:** Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.
- 2. Distribution Substation:** A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines:** If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.
- 4. Tap Lines:** If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.
- 5. Service Lines:** If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please give us a call so we can isolate the issue.

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Taylor Electric Cooperative we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with regular maintenance and care, none of them is designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved,

failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning

signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Check for loose-fitting plugs. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. Also, if an outlet is not working, it may be an indicator of unsafe wiring. Have an electrician check it out.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

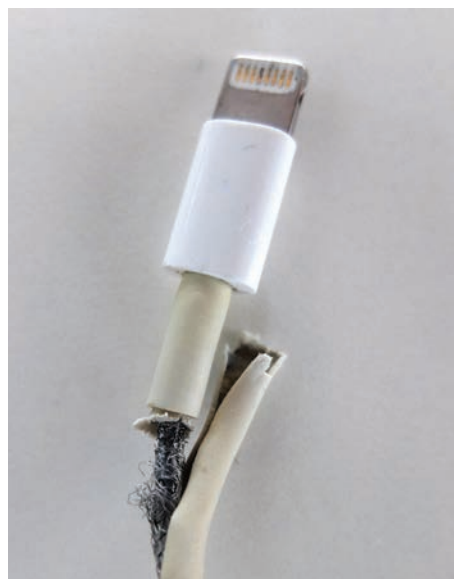
Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option. ▶

RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2019

Taylor Electric Cooperative has been notified by our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power, that, effective May 1, 2019, there will be a 2.16 percent increase in the cost of wholesale power we purchase from them. The "Wholesale Energy Charge" on your May 2019 electric bill will reflect this increase of \$0.00159 per kilowatt-hour (this will begin with electric bills due in June 2019).

Also, the board approved an increase of \$1.80 per month (6 cents per day) in the "Service Availability Charge" of members' electric bills. No adjustment of this portion of electric bills recovering local costs has been made since June 1, 2013.

Look for more information on the rate increase in the Taylor Report enclosed with your April electric bill.



Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Taylor Electric Cooperative, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If an extension cord shows any signs of frayed, cracked, or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission,

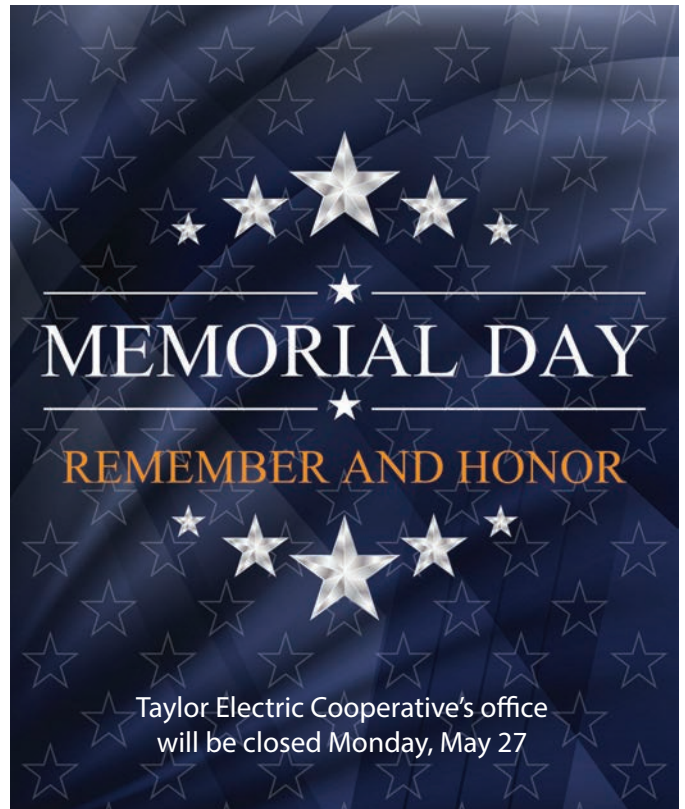
When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage. However, many of these fires—and their resulting costly damage—can be prevented with careful attention paid to your home’s electrical system and electrical devices.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Taylor Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you’ll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.



BEST WISHES TO ALL
AREA GRADUATES
FROM TAYLOR ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE



Michael Schaefer, President/CEO

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Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor



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