

Since 1940

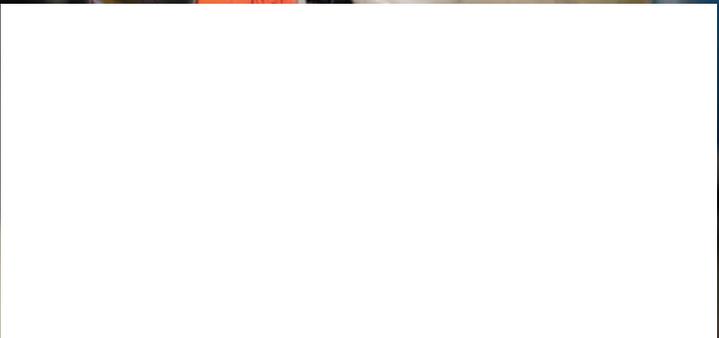
# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2020

## LAUDING LINEWORKERS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner





## Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, Taylor Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Taylor Electric is proud to honor the five lineworkers—Leadman Justin Fuchs and linemen Ron Mayer, Geoff Mueller, Mike Eloranta, and Tim Habermeyer—who maintain 870 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Taylor Electric invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.



Back row, left to right: Justin Fuchs, Ron Mayer, and Geoff Mueller.  
Front row, left to right: Tim Habermeyer and Mike Eloranta.



**E**arth Day is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

First, I want to share some things that we're doing right here at Taylor Electric Cooperative to better our own little corner of the world.

Over the past 10 years, we've launched green initiatives, including Bright Horizons community solar, enabling our consumer-members to access energy from renewable sources. We also help to create pollinator habitats within our service territory through Dairyland Power's solar projects, which includes the SoCore Solar Project located on Highway 64.

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use.

**Audit your light bulbs.** Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

**Maintain your HVAC system.** Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your

## HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently—keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

**Seal window and doors.** Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

**Examine your smart or programmable thermostat.** Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips; however, you can only achieve efficiencies and savings if the thermostat is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions worthy of a press release or event, they do make a difference. And we're always here to help if you want more information on how you can save energy. Stop by our office or give us a call.

As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community—and our beautiful planet.

## CAPITAL CREDITS 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 2019, your 2019 allocation, the amount returned in 2019, 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 important 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.

## TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In light of the COVID 19 pandemic and associated restrictions, we are postponing our annual meeting, originally set for April 4, until further notice. Please watch our website, Facebook page, and this magazine for updates.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



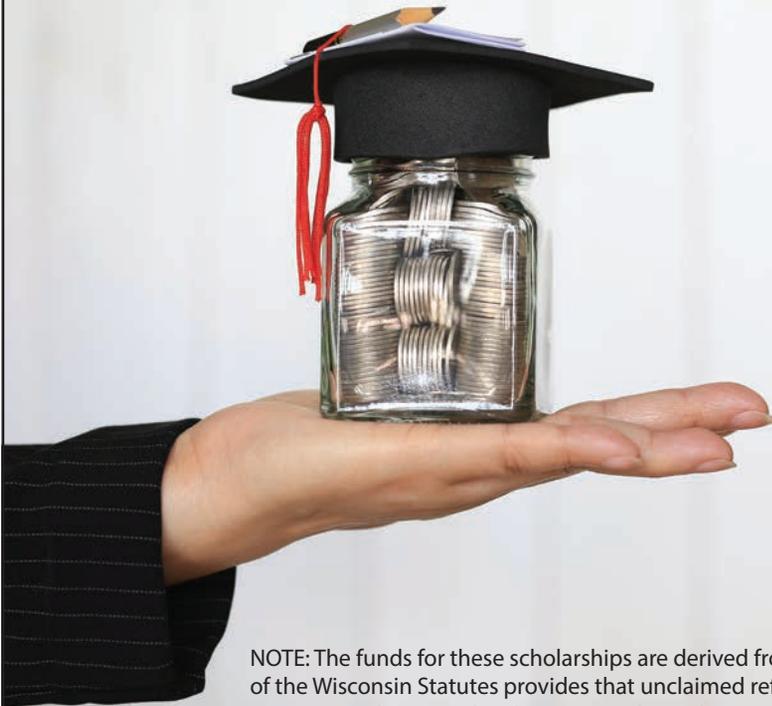
### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.





# WE'LL HELP YOU PAY FOR YOUR EDUCATION



## Apply for scholarships by April 7

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 2020 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 7, 2020.

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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Return to Taylor Electric Cooperative, N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451*

#### **Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO**

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#### **Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor**



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