

Taylor Report



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

May 2024

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MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Cheap electronic chargers spell trouble



The chargers that came with our phone, digital camera or other electronics seem to disappear as often as a sock mate sometimes. As a solution, many people reach for the low-cost, generic plug-in USB chargers and charging cables found in the sea of impulse items that flank the check-out line at your favorite

drug, convenience or big-box store. They're also popular items on numerous online shopping sites and cheaper than dishing out money to replace them with their original maker's versions. It can save money and it's so convenient, you rationalize. Without much more thought, in the virtual cart or on the counter it goes.

Inexpensive charging components may be one area you don't want to cut corners on, however, for a variety of reasons. Amazon recalled 26,000 AmazonBasics portable lithium-ion battery chargers and power banks after the massive online retailer learned the units can overheat and ignite, causing fire and burn hazards. According to the U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission, the products were sold between December 2014 and July 2017.

Along with being a potential fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can also cause electrocution. Dangers aside, they may cost you more in the long run since they can cause damage to whatever's on the other end of the cable.

To keep safe around electrical devices and charging gear, Safe Electricity recommends the following:

- Do not leave items that are charging unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable objects, especially bedding, and do not take them to bed with you. Tell kids and teens to NEVER place any charging device under their pillow. The heat generated cannot dissipate and the charger will become hotter and hotter, according to the

Newton, N.H. Fire Department. This could lead to the pillow or bed catching fire.

- Do not touch charging electronic devices with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables (those made or certified by the manufacturer). Using cheaper devices can cause damage to the USB charge chip. Although it's tempting to save money, this can have a lasting impact on how quickly and effectively your device charges in the future.

The bottom line is this: Don't buy charging equipment with prices that seem too good to be true or from companies you've never heard of. And even if you've heard of the company, be leery of fakes. In 2016, Apple sued a company that sold counterfeit wall chargers with Apple's name on them for less than \$10 each.

Say yes to the Milky Way in the check-out line or to the online Kindle book and no to cheap chargers.

—Source: safeelectricity.org

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES!!



Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 24th through Labor Day, Friday, August 30th, the office will be closing at 11:30 AM on Fridays throughout the summer. Office hours will be Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM– 4:00 PM and Friday 7:30 AM-11:30 AM.

The annual meeting location has changed for this year and will be held at the Simek Rec Center, 1037 W Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451 on Tuesday, June 25th. Dinner and registration starting at 4:30 pm, meeting to follow at 5:30 pm.

*** ABSENTEE BALLOTS BY REQUEST ***



Taylor Electric's annual meeting is set for Tuesday, June 25th at the Simek Rec Center, Medford. Registration starts at 4:30 PM with dinner served during this time. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM. In the event you can't attend the annual meeting, we have the option of Absentee Ballots. Call to have your ballot mailed or stop by the office to pick one up. Account verification will be necessary with both methods. Simply submit the completed ballot back to the office by Monday, June 24th. As always, in-person voting will still be available at the annual meeting! Absentee Ballots will be available after May 8, 2024. **The absentee ballots will only contain the option to vote for the proposed bylaw change. There are no contested director seats, therefore no ballot is required.**

2024 PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Taylor Electric Cooperative members will be voting on the bylaw amendments below at the co-op's annual meeting on Tuesday, June 25th. Members can also vote by absentee ballot on request.

New language is shown by underlining—"add these words." Language to be deleted is shown by strike through—"delete these words." And longer passages with no changes are indicated by"...."

Amend Article IV ("Directors"), Section 2.b ("Qualifications") of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 2. Tenure and Qualifications.

(a) Tenure. ...

(b) Qualifications. ~~No person shall~~To be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position of trust in the Cooperative a person who must:

- ~~1) is not an active member receiving electric service from the Cooperative at his or her place of permanent residence, or~~
- ~~2) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy, services or supplies to the Cooperative, or~~
- ~~3) has been employed by the Cooperative at anytime in the prior seven (7) years, or~~
- ~~4) has pursued any claim or litigation against the Cooperative or any of its employees or directors at anytime in the prior seven (7) years, or who in the prior year has been delinquent on any obligation owed the Cooperative for more than 60 days, or~~
- ~~5) has been convicted of a felony, or other offense involving dishonesty, for which completion of the sentence, including any period of probation or parole, occurred within 10 years of election or appointment to the board.~~

- 1) have an active membership receiving service at their principal place of residence.
 - a. or in the case of a member that is a partnership, corporation, limited liability entity, or other form of organization, all the requirements set forth in the paragraph that follows (7), below, are met; and
- 2) not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy, services or supplies to the Cooperative; and
- 3) not have been an employee (or spouse/partner of an employee) of the Cooperative at any time in the prior seven (7) years; and
- 4) not have pursued any claim or litigation against the Cooperative or any of its employees or directors at any time in the prior seven (7) years; and
- 5) not have been delinquent for more than 60 days in the prior

- year on any obligation owed the Cooperative; and
- 6) not have been convicted of a felony, unless the sentence or penalty, including any period of probation or parole or the time required to make restitution or pay any fine, was completed more than 10 years prior to the election or appointment to the board; and
 - 7) meet the then current directors standard of conduct policy, in the judgment of a majority of the disinterested members of the board.

In the case of memberships involving joint tenants, a partnership, limited liability entity, or corporation, only one representative from that membership can be elected to be a director. ~~When a membership is held jointly, one of the joint tenants, but not more than one, may be elected a director, provided, however, that such person's shall not be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless principal residence is served by the Cooperative and all joint tenants, partners, LLC members or corporate officers both joint tenants or all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth in (2) – (7) above. When a membership is held by a partnership or limited liability entity, one, but not more than one, of the partners or members designated in writing by the partnership or limited liability entity may be elected a director, provided, however, that none of the partners or members shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless the candidate shall meet the qualifications set forth in (b) (1) – (5), above, and unless all partners and members shall meet the qualifications set forth in (b) (2) – (5), above. When a membership is held by a corporation, one, but not more than one, of the officers thereof designated in writing by the corporation may be elected a director, provided, however, that none of the officers shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless the candidate shall meet the qualifications set forth in (b) (1) – (5); above, and unless all of the officers shall meet the qualifications set forth in (b) (2) – (5), above.~~

EXPLANATION: The amendment clarifies and improves the readability of this detailed section of the Bylaws.

Board Report – March 2024

- Approved February disbursements totaling \$451,078. 4 new member applications, and February 2024 construction in the amount of \$52,617.
- Reviewed financial results for February with \$95,008 Operating Margins and \$99,292 Total Margins year to date.
- The annual audit was presented, followed by the allocation of \$875,547 in margins for 2023.
- There were 4 outages in February, with an average YTD

outage time per meter of .0034 hours.

- Eight applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$7,251 to be paid out at the net present value of \$2,555.
- 18 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the March 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$9,271.
- Other topics covered included line extension policy updates, fence construction, donations, possible bylaw amendments, past meeting reports, and upcoming meetings.