

JOIN FELLOW CO-OP MEMBERS AT THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again—Taylor Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2016 annual meeting, which will be held Saturday, March 12, at the Medford Area Senior High School beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new board members.

Taylor Electric employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

Did you know the annual meeting is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our community? Learn more about Bright Horizon's solar, SmartHub, and other technologies your cooperative has initiated to keep you up to date. This is an opportunity to learn more about the topics that impact you and talk about what we as a community can do to address our most pressing challenges and take advantage of available opportunities.

Your annual meeting is also the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by far-away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is run by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

So, at the annual meeting, you'll have fun and maybe win a prize, but you will also feel good knowing you had a voice in a very important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources: electricity.

From all of your friends at Taylor Electric Cooperative, we hope to see you in March at the annual meeting.

Source: Meghaan Evans, who writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



80TH ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH 12, 2016

Time for Director Elections

Taylor Electric Cooperative's 80th annual meeting will be held at the Medford Area Senior High School in Medford on Saturday, March 12, 2016. One of the most important duties of the members at this meeting will be to elect members to fill three seats on the board of directors.

These seats include those currently held by Dennis Engel, JoAnn Smith, and Raymond Henrichs, all three of whom are eligible for re-election. Engel has just completed the unexpired, one-year term that was vacated with the passing of Brian Kulas, and Henrichs and Smith will each have completed three terms of service on the board (members are eligible to serve up to five three-year terms).



Dennis Engel



JoAnn Smith



Raymond Henrichs

Since the nominating committee has already met, to be on the ballot for election, a member needs to be nominated by petition, which involves getting signatures of not less than 25 members and delivering that nomination petition to the co-op not less than seven days prior to the annual meeting (by March 4, 2016, for the upcoming annual meeting).

The Nominating Committee for the 2016 Annual Meeting is as follows: Bill Elsner, Richard Feldbruegge, and Donald Purvis.

Please contact President and CEO Mike Schaefer if you have any questions about being nominated for a seat on the board.

The cooperative's bylaws establish minimum qualifications for a director. They are:

1. Must be a member. (For memberships that are held jointly, either person may run for election to the board of directors.)
2. Must be receiving electric service from the co-op at his or her place of permanent residence.
3. Must not be employed by, or financially interested in, a competing enterprise.

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Annual Meeting

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4. Must not be employed by, or financially interested in, business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or the members.
5. Must not have been employed by the cooperative at any time in the last seven years.
6. Must not have pursued any claim or litigation against the cooperative at any time in the prior seven years.
7. Must not have been delinquent on any obligation owed the cooperative for more than 60 days during the prior year.
8. Must not have 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.

In addition, board members are expected to:

1. Attend all regular monthly board meetings.
2. Attend all special meetings, such as budget meetings, labor negotiation meetings, periodic Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association meetings, and various meetings as they arise. A new director is expected to take advantage of educational opportunities that would enhance his or her understanding of Taylor Electric Cooperative's operations.
3. Read and be familiar with information, reports, and other data received from national, state, and local associations.
4. Establish contact with the members of the co-op.
5. Work in harmony with other board members for the good of all members of the cooperative.
6. Sign a statement and follow standards of ethical conduct.



DANGER! Outlet Overload

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**. These fires cause an estimated **280 deaths, 1,125 injuries** and **\$1.1 billion in property loss**.

Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80 percent of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

Are you overloading outlets?
Use this formula to find out:

WATTAGE/VOLTS=AMPS

Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used. With a 20 amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80 percent of the available current.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, Home & Garden

Will EPA's Clean Power Plan threaten electric reliability?

Effects on transmission grid being studied—report to be released this year

By Paul Wesslund

Since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Clean Power Plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in August, several objections have been raised—from its effect on the economy to whether it actually has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions.

An especially significant concern came from the organization responsible for making sure our electricity stays on. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), reacting to a 2014 draft of the EPA plan, said in April 2015 that the electric utility industry “needs more time to develop coordinated plans to address shifts in generation and corresponding transmission.”

NERC cited concern about the electric transmission grid, noting that some of the emission reductions would begin in the year 2020, even though, NERC said, “transmission projects require between six and 15 years to engineer, site, permit and construct.”

EPA's final rule released in August responded to that concern by extending the deadline two years, setting a 2022 start date and phasing in the limits through 2030. Is that enough time? NERC responded in a statement that acknowledged the EPA had changed its deadlines and that NERC will analyze the EPA's final rule and issue a report in mid-2016.

Among those challenging the EPA rules in court is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), concerned that the Clean Power Plan would hurt electric reliability and raise costs for electric co-op members.

“We believe the EPA has overstepped its legal authority with the Clean Power Plan, and, along with many other interveners, have challenged [the] EPA's rules in the courts,” says Paul McCurley, NRECA chief engineer and acting executive director of energy and power. “If the legal challenge is successful, then perhaps we can get [the] EPA to write regulations that address more than just environmental concerns—but also consider economic impacts to consumers and do not threaten the reliability of the electric grid.”

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our Christmas coloring contest winners! Each winner received two free movie passes to the Broadway Theater. Thank you to everyone who entered.

Age 1–3

- Lily Kalepp, daughter of Ryan and Melissa Kalepp
- Danahlia Waszkiewicz, daughter of Steve and Nicole Waszkiewicz

Age 4–6

- Jack Doriot, son of Carson and Kelly Doriot
- Logan Langdon, son of Amanda and Joel Langdon

Age 7–9

- Shayla Radlinger, daughter of Michael and Caroline Radlinger
- Dawson Butkus, son of Robert and Erica Butkus



Age 10–12

- Mason Chmielowiec, son of Mark and Gail Chmielowiec
- Alicia Venzke, daughter of Mike and Cathy Venzke

CORRECTIONS TO 2016 INCENTIVES AS PRINTED IN JANUARY 2016 WEC NEWS: Changes effective January 1, 2016

- \$25 incentives are now available for Energy Star dishwashers, but are no longer available for dehumidifiers.
- LED light bulbs: capped at 50 percent of cost, not to exceed \$2 per bulb.
- Incentives are no longer available on Hi Volume – Lo Speed Ag Fans.



FREE – Home Efficiency Analysis Tool

Find out how efficient your home really is! It's easy! Just go to: <http://homeefficiency.touchstoneenergy.com> and enter a few facts about your home. This interactive program will develop a list of projects to help you make your home more efficient.



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