

2016 Richland Electric Cooperative

Richland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Saturday, April 2nd, 2016

Richland Electric Cooperative's 80th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 2nd, 2016.

Music and door prizes will also be included in the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Richland High School, located at 1996 Hwy 14 West.

Breakfast will begin 7am and the business portion of the meeting will begin at 8am (we will have our meeting while members are having breakfast)

Enjoy the meeting and talking with directors and staff of Richland Electric Cooperative.

Saturday, April 2nd, 2016
Richland High School

We hope to see you there!



Christmas 2015 Coloring Contest Winners

- * Age 1: Connor Wallace
parents: Aaron and Sarah Wallace
- * Age 2: Milo Johnson
parents: Cody and Samantha Johnson
- * Age 3: Galen Hochstetler
parents: Earl and Rebecca Hochstetler
- * Age 4: Allen Horton
parents-Jason and Heather Horton
- * Age 5: Emma Horton
parents-Jason and Heather Horton
- * Age 6: Cherie Ruth Hamann
parents-Mark and Kristina Hamann
- * Age 7: Emma Kirkham
parents-Stephanie Kirkham
- * Age 8: James Jakubowski
parents-Jacob and Kim Jakubowski
- * Age 9: Ryan Tourdot
parents-Angela Tourdot
- * Age 10: Lauren Kirkham
parents-Stephanie Kirkham
- * Age 11: Makayla Sue Good
parents-Marlin and Edna Good
- * Age 12: Roseanna Hamann
parents-Mark and Kristina Hamann
- * Age 13: Duane Hostetler
parents-Darwin Hostetler
- * Age 14: Collin Smith
parents-Roger Smith
- * Age 15: Alyssa Good
parents-Marlin and Edna Good
- * Age 16: JeanAnne Schulze
parents-Tony and Cindy Schulze
- * Age 17: Madalyn Payne
parents-James Berghorn
- * Age 18 and over: Tony Schulze

From the Manager... Times are changing

This year marks Richland Electric Cooperative's 80th birthday. A lot has changed over those 80 years.

As I've sought to learn as much as I could about the history of Richland Electric Co-op I read countless documents, books and newspaper accounts. Some of those accounts are strikingly similar to accounts you might read about today including how linemen braved tough weather to restore outages, or how a group of employees teamed up to brighten the day of someone experiencing one of life's challenges. Other activities have long since disappeared including one that I find particularly interesting, that being the practice of co-op linemen traveling to a substation to shut the power off for one minute, precisely at noon the day before the annual meeting to remind members to attend the cooperative annual meeting. We still have employees here that remember taking milk cans filled with hot water to the Annual Meeting held at the City Auditorium- where at the time there was no water heater- so they could wash dishes after serving the crowd a meal prepared by the wives of co-op directors. Those meetings attracted several hundred participants eager to learn more about their co-op, socialize and conduct the required business.

Today, our Annual Meeting attracts far fewer members and efforts to improve attendance have been met with mixed results. In an effort to ensure we are conducting business in a fashion that the members enjoy and still meet our official business requirements, we've talked with a lot of members that do and don't attend the Annual Meeting. The message has been consistently the same and it centers around members' time. Members are still interested in their cooperative but they want to get the information in a format that can be 'fit-in' to their schedule. We heard on multiple occasions that our Annual Meeting Book/ Calendar provides members with the information they want, in a format that is enjoyed. We also heard, once we send that out, we don't need to provide more speeches, reports and other types of presentations which take hours at the Annual Meeting.

As a result, we're trying something different at our 80th Annual Meeting—'Breakfast and Business'. We will still serve a great breakfast as we have for the past several years, there will be attendance gifts for all members that attend and members will be given a scratch-off ticket for a chance to win a variety of door prizes. There is still some business we must conduct and we'll do that while people remain in their seats in the breakfast area, but it will be brief. All required reports will be printed in the booklet including board reports, President's Report, CEO Report, Dairyland Report and Financial reports. There will be an official report on

CALENDAR of events

the results of the director election which will have been conducted by mail, and plenty of time for member questions or comments, but beyond that there are no planned speeches. The formal part of the meeting should take less than 15 minutes with as much time as necessary to make sure we answer member questions or hear their comments, subject to the rules of the meeting.

Some thought making this change on our 80th birthday, a change that dramatically departs from a long tradition runs counter to honoring our history, but yet others thought these changes demonstrated that Richland Electric Cooperative was inspired by innovation and change, and our founders would be more disappointed if we didn't continue that tradition.

Our Annual Meeting is about six weeks out yet, scheduled for Saturday April, 2nd and I'll hope you can invest a little time to attend and we'll do all we can to make it a valuable use of your time. As always, feel free to call me at our office or drop me an email to sclark@rec.coop with your thoughts and concerns.

March

- 13 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 25 Good Friday REC and Genuine Telecom Offices Closed
- 27 Easter
- 31 Richland Electric Cooperative Scholarship due

April

- 2 Richland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting - Richland High School
- 9 Big Top Chautauqua - Richland High School

CLOSEOUT SALE on all of our IN STOCK fireplaces

Oxford Corner
\$550



Holbrook
\$450



Deerhurst
\$475



Brookings
\$550



We are currently running a closeout sale on all of our **IN STOCK** fireplaces. We will no longer stock Dimplex Fireplaces. We will continue serving as a Dimplex dealer for those who wish to order a fireplace. If a member brings in this newsletter we will give them an additional 10% any fireplace we have in stock!

Looking for a new way to report your outage?



**Introducing
outage texting.**

Scholarship applications due soon!

March 31, 2016 is the deadline to get scholarship applications with senior picture, into our office.

Scholarships are available to members and children of members whom receive electric service from Richland Electric Cooperative and continuing their education beyond high school year.

The application form includes a page to be completed by an educator advisor. The application forms and senior picture are due in the office on or before March 31th, 2016.

Those received late will be automatically disqualified.

Richland Electric Cooperative is dedicated to helping members and their families in a financial way to further their education.



Richland Electric Cooperative
2016

1027 N. Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 439; Richland Center, WI 53581

www.rec.coop

Office Hours

Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Outages

Call (608) 647-3173; 24 Hours

Board of Directors

Calvin Sebranek-President

Gerald Wendorf-Vice President

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Cooperative**

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