

Spring
2015

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Richland Electric Cooperative 2015

Richland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Saturday, March 28th, 2015

Richland Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28th, 2015.

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

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

The Business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. with breakfast being served from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, March 28th, 2015
Richland Center High School

9:30 a.m.

We hope to see you there!



Christmas 2014 Coloring Contest Winners

Age	Winner
* Age 2	Mason Miess
* Age 3	Aspen Young
* Age 4	Kaiden Stibbe
* Age 5	Erica Bernstein
* Age 6	Kylie Hopfensperger
* Age 7	Justin Honer
* Age 8	Megann Fenton
* Age 9	Branson Smith
* Age 10	Makayla Good
* Age 11	Jordan Keehn
* Age 12	Alexis Klingaman
* Age 13	Collin Smith
* Age 14	Alyssa Good
* Age 16	Madalyn Payne
* Age 17	Makensie Escher
* Age 18 and over	Jessalyn Hostetler



From the Manager...

It's a bit old-fashioned

For nearly 80 years, Richland Electric Cooperative members have convened to discuss, learn, deliberate and socialize at their annual meeting. My only knowledge of annual meetings held in the first 25 years comes from personal accounts, formal minutes and a few photographs.

Members that have attended recent annual meetings often take the time to tell me what they liked, and as importantly what they didn't. It's no surprise that the meals we serve and the time they get to spend talking with friends, neighbors and our staff always ranks high while some of the reports and business items are among the least favorite portions of the meeting.

Our board of directors following every annual meeting reviews any comments they received as well as their own personal thoughts about how the meeting could be improved to make it more appealing to all members. Those discussions have led to a variety of actions: holding the meeting on a Saturday, printing more reports in the booklet rather than long verbal ones, using mail ballots rather than in-person voting, and many other small improvements. There are some things that haven't changed much due to legal requirements. We must provide various financial reports, resolutions, minutes of previous meetings and more. Those items must be voted upon by the members. Unless you are deeply passionate about very specific cooperative operations, some things will almost certainly bore the average member but we try to minimize those rather mundane items.

There is one particular photo in our office of an annual meeting held many years ago which shows all of the financial reports written on a chalk board. A gentleman is using a long wooden pointer to draw attention to a particular number and I can only assume he is explaining the reason behind that number. Today, the use of chalkboards has been replaced by video screens and full motion video and other technology.

CALENDAR

of events

MARCH

- 15 Richland Electric Cooperative Scholarship due!
-
- 21 Richland County Performing Arts Center "City Auditorium"- Vic Ferrari "Symphony on the Rocks"
-
- 28 Richland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting-Richland Center High School

APRIL

- 3 Good Friday-REC and Genuine Telecom offices closed
-



No longer is it necessary to attend the annual meeting to learn about your cooperative, but in order to truly interact you just have to be there. You can see the presentations made at the annual meeting from anywhere you can find an internet connection, but in those cases it just a one-way conversation.

Because so much of the information about our cooperative is available without attending the annual meeting, it has impacted attendance. Other factors are likely in play as it relates to attendance. Our lives are busier and time seems ever more valuable. Attending an annual meeting on a precious Saturday doesn't rank high on the list of things to do for most people.

The annual meeting for any cooperative is an extremely important event. We have a responsibility to encourage members to attend so they can learn about the business they own, how it has performed historically and what is in store for the future. That encouragement takes many forms whether it is prizes, good food, selecting the best date and time, quality information and format, or something else.

Some portions of our meeting haven't changed much, they remain a bit old-fashioned and many of our members enjoy that aspect. Other portions are fast-paced and interactive utilizing the latest in technology which appeals to other members. There is something for everyone.

To remain a strong cooperative our members must remain engaged. While we try to incent our members to attend by offering an exciting and fun format, the fact is members must want to attend for the good of themselves and their fellow cooperative members.

We hope that you will consider taking a few hours to come and enjoy some good food and fellowship on Saturday, March 28th when we'll host our 79th Annual Meeting at the Richland High School.

Electric Grills

Make your next barbeque grill purchase an electric grill. Electric grills are safe, efficient and easy to operate, just turn on the thermostat and grill away! Plus, food tastes great, whether it's your favorite meat, vegetable or fruit. Electric grills can often be used where gas and charcoal grills are not allowed, such as apartment buildings.

The models we carry include a deluxe cart, a table top that is excellent for campers and motor homes or a portable lock & go grill that can be converted to use charcoal.



Scholarship applications due soon!

March 15, 2015 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 15th, 2015.

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.



2015
Richland Electric Cooperative

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

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Gerald Wendorf-Vice President
Judy Murphy-Secretary
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Cooperative**

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