

Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Happy Holidays

Our board of directors and employees hope all your activities are safe and enjoyable throughout the New Year. Happy Holidays and have a joyous New Year, from all of us to all of you.

Vernon Electric is a collection point for toys and canned goods to be distributed by the Toys for Tots and Bethel Butikk Thrift Shop and Food

Pantry this holiday season. Please join us for this great cause.

Non-perishable food items and new toys can be brought to Vernon Electric's front foyer by Wednesday, December 13, during business hours on weekdays.



Large Solar Arrays Completed in Vernon County

- 1.3 MW (megawatt = 1 million watts) solar array installed just north of Liberty Pole
- 1.0 MW solar array installed at junction of Hwy EE and Q about 3 miles south of Hillsboro
- Enough energy to power about 400 homes
- Owned and operated by Chicago-based SoCore Energy on leased land
- Dairyland Power will purchase the output from 2 MW of the systems, and Vernon Electric will purchase .3 MW
- Solar output will feed into Vernon Electric's distribution system to benefit all co-op members
- The panels operate on an automatic tilting system, which allows the panels to follow the path of the sun to increase energy production – almost 14 percent more electricity than fixed-position panels
- As a side benefit, the ground under the array will be restored as prairie to reduce soil erosion and provide habitat for bees and butterflies
- These solar arrays are 2 of 14 large arrays installed in Wisconsin, plus one in NE Iowa, and are part of a much larger plan by Dairyland Power Cooperative to diversify generation resources and increase the amount of solar energy produced



Co-op Month Celebrated



Vernon Memorial Healthcare provided free blood pressure screenings.

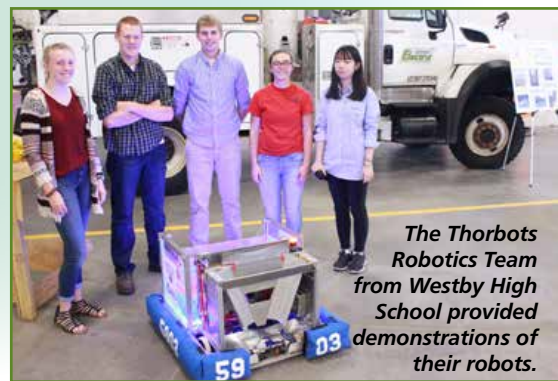
Thanks to everyone who stopped by our office in Westby to help us celebrate National Co-op Month. The cooperative business model puts service first and highlights how working together can get us the things we need at an affordable price.

The Vernon Co. Land & Water Dept. provided free well-water screening for nitrates.



Members enjoyed several games during the picnic.

Interactive displays provided a learning experience in energy efficiency.



The Thorbots Robotics Team from Westby High School provided demonstrations of their robots.

VEC Leaders Garner Regional Recognition



VEC Director, Orlan Bakkum and his wife, Denise, received the Friends of the Cooperative Award at this year's Dairy Gala and Co-op Banquet.



VEC Director, Dave Dregne received recognition for having successfully completed the Director Gold Program.



VEC Board President, Bernadine Hornby earned her Board Leadership Certificate.



VEC General Manager & CEO, Joe McDonald received the Outstanding Alumni Award from UW-Richland Center, presented by Orlan Bakkum.

Congratulations!

Scholarships Available From VEC

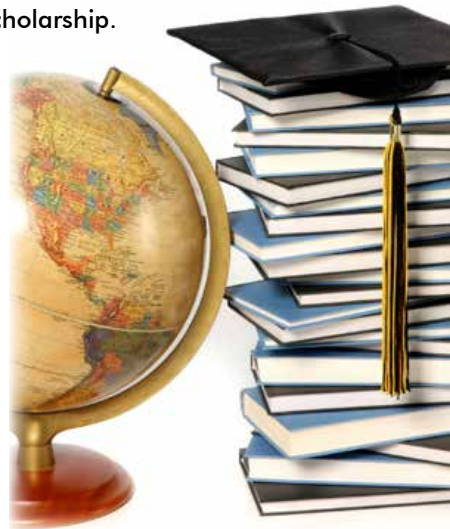
In 2018, scholarships will be made available to students whose parents or legal guardians are members of Vernon Electric Cooperative. Twenty seniors will each receive a \$750 scholarship for the college or university they decide to attend. Funding for the scholarships comes from unclaimed capital credit checks which are forfeited to the Federated Youth Foundation. This Foundation, in turn, makes this money available for youth scholarships to Vernon Electric Cooperative.

Applicants from the high schools listed below, plus one at-large applicant and three other students, will be chosen in a random drawing at the January Board Meeting from all the completed and verified applications received for the scholarships. Each applicant, or one of the applicant's parents or legal guardians, are welcome to be present during the drawing.

- Aquinas
- Brookwood
- Cashton
- Cornerstone Christian Academy
- De Soto
- Hillsboro
- Kickapoo
- La Crosse Central
- La Farge
- Luther
- Royal
- Sparta
- Viroqua
- Westby
- Wonewoc
- Youth Initiative High School

Of all the seniors, six will be eligible to attend the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW-River Falls, July 25-27, 2018 on a first come, first serve basis. The YLC is a first-class event put on by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA), and the students are chaperoned and transported by a Vernon Electric representative. The students who attend the YLC will receive an additional \$250 added to their VEC scholarship.

In addition, students will have the option to enter an essay in the WECA's Youth Leadership Congress Essay Contest and win \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second or \$250 for third. One student from VEC's service territory could potentially win a total of \$2,000 worth of scholarship money. Scholarship applications are available from your school guidance counselor, our office, or at www.vernonelectric.org.



Trucks for Sale

- 1998 GMC Sierra 1500, 2WD; 135,577 mi.



- 2002 Chevy 1500 Truck, 4WD; 130,245 mi.

Sold as is. Bids on Wisconsin Surplus website (www.wisurplus.com) will be accepted until 10 a.m. on December 22, 2017. To arrange a pre-inspection of the vehicle at our Westby office, contact Jason Kriel at 608-634-3121, 800-447-5051, or jkriel@vernonelectric.org.

Picnic & Open House Winners

Congratulations to our prize winners at our Open House & Picnic. Each won a \$25 bill credit:

- Wire Reel Guess Game Robert Berra
- Registration Drawing Lonnie Muller
- Candy Guess Game Leslie Kast

**Watt's
New**

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
110 Saugstad Rd; Westby, WI 54667
Call (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

www.vernonelectric.org • E-mail: info@vernonelectric.org
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

