

Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Commitment to Community

The seventh cooperative principle is "commitment to community". Vernon Electric Co-op was busy in December helping the people in the communities we serve.

Vernon Electric presented \$8,000 to area food pantries this holiday season. Each of the eight food pantries in our area received a \$1,000 check. Funds came from unclaimed capital credits of the cooperative.



Pictured, front row, l to r: Joe McDonald, Vernon Electric Co-op GM & CEO, Bethel Butikk; Mark Phillips, La Farge Free Methodist Church; Dave Dregne, Jerry Kramer, VEC Board; Joyce Hunt, New Hope UMC, De Soto; Richard Nemec, Bernadine Hornby, Orlan Bakkum, Jim Goodman, Ole Yttri, VEC Board; Phyllis Malin, Cashton Cupboard & Closet; Dave Olson, VEC Board; Diana Forkash, Viola Food Pantry; Dale Toltzman, Living Faith Food Pantry, Viroqua; Dan Korn, VEC Board. Not pictured are representatives from the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Hillsboro, and the Trinity United Church of Christ in La Crosse.



Vernon Electric was a collection point for toys and food to be distributed by Toys for Tots and Bethel Butikk, respectively, during December. Vernon Electric employees and members helped by donating to the cause. Thank you to all the employees, directors, and members, who donated.

Readstown's Police Chief, Timothy Gratz (center), has been seeking ways to help protect village property and make it safer for the public to use. Vernon Electric Cooperative, being the power supplier to the Village, was able to help with a Federated Youth Foundation grant. CoBank, the Co-op's lender, matched the grant for a total of \$2,000 to help the Village purchase security equipment. VEC Director, Dave Dregne (left) and VEC GM & CEO, Joe McDonald presented the check to Chief Gratz in Readstown.



Phone Number Update

Vernon Electric would like to provide you excellent customer service by notifying you prior to major work in your area that could affect your power. To do this, we need to know your phone number. Many members no longer have land-lines, and/or switched cell phone numbers recently.

Please make sure your phone number is up to date with Vernon Electric. You can update your number by calling or emailing our office, or you can update your contact information through the SmartHub App on our website, or on your mobile tablet or smartphone.



Cast Your Ballot for Your Co-op Representative

Members in the following Divisions will receive a list in the mail of all the members in their township or village:

Division II Towns of Genoa, Wheatland, Harmony, & Freeman

Division V Towns of Greenfield, Washington, Portland, Leon, Sparta, & Wells

Division VIII Towns of Wellington, Glendale, Forest, Union, & Bloom

We ask that you select five members to represent you at the District Conference to be held February 10, 2018. The two lowest of the five top vote receivers will be the alternates.

Your vote is important, and those elected are invited to attend the District Conference.

Business reports and work plans will be discussed, and director candidates will be selected for those divisions having elections.

Remember, when you get your ballot, choose five members, sign the ballot envelope, and return it to our office in the self-addressed, stamped envelope by January 11, 2018.



DoWATT'S Program *Right!*

2018 Energy Star Appliance Rebates

If looking for new household products, look for ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR.



Vernon Electric offers rebates for the following appliances that have earned an energy efficiency, ENERGY STAR rating:

ENERGY STAR Refrigerators	\$75
ENERGY STAR Dehumidifiers	\$25
ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioners	\$25
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer	\$25
Heat Pump Clothes Dryer	\$50
ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers.....	\$75
ENERGY STAR Dish Washer.....	\$25
ENERGY STAR Television	\$25
ENERGY STAR Computer Monitor.....	\$25

Recycling Rebates:

Appliance must be in working order when recycled.

Recycled Freezer.....	\$25
Recycled Refrigerator	\$25
Recycled Room Air Conditioner	\$25

Rebate forms and details are available by request, visiting our office, our downloadable from our website at vernonelectric.org. Detailed receipts are required with applications. Submit rebate application within 3 months of purchase.

Local Youth Represents VEC at State and National Venues

Vernon Electric Cooperative was proud to be represented by Katelin Berklund during the past year. Katelin is currently attending UM-Duluth. This all began for her during her senior year at Westby High School when she decided to attend the Youth Leadership Congress at UW-River Falls in July. She went there with five other local youth from across Vernon Electric's service territory as sponsored representatives of Vernon Electric. During the event she was presented with the opportunity to run for the Youth Board which organizes and leads the next year's Youth Leadership Congress. To her surprise, she was elected by her peers after a competitive campaign. As part of her role as a YLC Board member, she represented Vernon Electric during the National Youth Tour in Washington D.C. where she learned about our state and national history and got to meet some of her elected representatives.

This past November, Katelin was asked to speak at the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's (WECA) Annual Meeting about electric cooperative youth programs.

Katelin's comes from a heritage of service in the rural electric cooperative movement. Her father is a Journeyman Lineman for Vernon Electric Cooperative,

and her grandfather was a Journeyman Lineman for Riverland Energy Cooperative, based out of Arcadia, WI.

Katelin Berklund addressing attendees of the WECA Annual Meeting.



From l to r: Richard Nemecek, VEC and WECA board member; Dave Dregne; VEC board member; Katelin Berklund; Bernadine Hornby, VEC board president; and Joe McDonald, VEC CEO & General Manager.

Save the date!

Friday, February 16
Mount La Crosse Ski Night
4-9 p.m.

Special rates for Vernon Electric Cooperative members. More info coming in next month's newsletter, in the News & Events section of our website, and on our Facebook page.



Win a Chance for a \$25 Bill Credit When You Sign Up for SmartHub

Members who sign up for SmartHub in the month of **January** will get a chance to be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit on their electric bill. SmartHub is a free service that delivers timely and secure data about your energy use and electric account to your computer, smart phone, or tablet.

- ▼ Track your electricity use
- ▼ Manage your account information
- ▼ View and pay your bill
- ▼ View your monthly newsletter



Sign up for SmartHub at www.VernonElectric.org or from your app store. When you use SmartHub you save your co-op money, and we'll pass the savings back with a chance for anyone who signs up in January to be entered for a drawing to win a \$25 bill credit.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy New Year!

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:

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