

# Watt's New

May 2023



## Vernon Electric Cooperative

### Monthly Co-op



Last month's trivia question was...

How many miles of power line (both underground and overhead) does Vernon Electric Co-op maintain? Hint: Vernon Electric serves co-op members in Vernon, Monroe, La Crosse, Crawford, Richland, Sauk, and Juneau Counties and there are nine other electric utilities that serve their customers within Vernon Electric's service area.

**Answer:** Vernon Electric Co-op maintains 2,172 miles of distribution power lines.

*"Information for our member-owners."*

#### April Trivia:

America's rural electric cooperatives have had a mascot since 1950. What's his name?

*(See next month's newsletter for answer.)*



## Membership Survey to Begin

Vernon Electric Cooperative is partnering with Power System Engineering to assess how we can better serve you! A random selection of 2,000 members will be asked to participate in a mail survey to provide feedback on our current program offerings as well as:

- Satisfaction with your Cooperative
- Perspectives on conservation and climate change
- Interest in participating in energy-saving rates and programs
- Interest in electric vehicles, renewable energy, and energy-efficient technologies

Your opinions and feedback are extremely valuable and will help us determine programs that may be offered in the future.

The survey should take only 5-7 minutes to complete, and if you are selected to participate, your response will enter you into a drawing to win one of ten \$25 Bill Credits! Please take the time to fill out this important survey if you receive one in the mail. Thank you!

## Vernon Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Well Attended

Thank you to all the members who attended Vernon Electric Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting held in our warehouse on March 25, 2023. Nearly 400 people enjoyed a pancake breakfast before the start of the meeting. 230 memberships were registered to vote, making it one of the most well attended annual meetings in years. \$750 scholarships were presented to 18 students along with a \$1,000 lineworker scholarship.

A detailed report from the member-elected Review Committee was read aloud confirming board minutes were in order and highlighting significant accomplishments of the Board and Cooperative in 2022.

In board elections, Orlan Bakkum, representing the Towns of Viroqua, Christiana, and Coon, retained his seat. Jerry Kramer, representing the Towns of Medary, Shelby, Hamburg, and Bergen, retained his seat. Ole Yttri, representing the Towns of Webster, Stark, Liberty, Forest (Richland Co.), and Kickapoo, was newly elected, replacing the incumbent.

Bylaw amendments recommended for approval by the District Delegates at this year's District Committee Conference were discussed and passed.

Three advisory resolutions were presented by members. The resolutions had to do with "Transparency and Community Concern", "To Encourage Farm and Home Solar" and "Energy Planning". After discussion and voting, two of the resolutions were defeated, and the Resolution to

Encourage Farm and Home Solar passed.

Due to the length of the meeting from much discussion over bylaws and resolutions, the CEO report and the Dairyland Power Cooperative update were postponed, and after the drawing of door prizes, the meeting was adjourned.

Following the Annual Meeting the Board met to elect board officers. As a result, there were no changes. Bernadine Hornby is Chair, Orlan Bakkum is Vice-Chair, David Dregne is Secretary, Richard Nemic is Treasurer, and Daniel Korn remains VEC's representative to the Dairyland Power Board.

### Congratulations Annual Meeting Winners

The following members who attended this year's annual meeting in March were selected by random drawing to win a \$25 bill credit on their next electric bill:

Mark Steingraeber, Richard Kettner, Albert Miller, Dawn Anderson, Monte Dunnum, Scott Yttri, Duane Levendoski, Ronald Moilien, Heidi Stendel, and Ronald Brown.

Our grand prize winners were:

Lonnie Muller - Meco Deluxe Cart Electric Grill  
Dave Ware - Milwaukee cordless electric leaf blower  
George Nygaard - DeWalt cordless electric leaf blower

**Thank you all who attended.**

# Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to 2023 graduates awarded a \$750 scholarship and one \$1,000 Lineworker scholarship. Students were selected by a random drawing at the February Vernon Electric board meeting. To qualify, the student or their parents must be Vernon Electric Co-op members and the student must apply for the scholarship by the published deadline. The student will have to complete at least one semester of post-secondary education.



**Bobby Skemp**  
Aquinas High School



**Alexis Pasch**  
Brookwood High School



**Austin Culpitt**  
Cashton High School  
Lineworker Scholarship



**Chelsie Paulsen**  
Cashton High School



**Zack Mlsna**  
Cashton High School



**Blake Larson**  
Central High School



**Gracyn Beck**  
De Soto High School



**Jeremiah Frederick**  
Hillsboro High School



**McKinley Ray**  
Kickapoo High School



**Helen Clements**  
Kickapoo High School



**McKala Huebsch**  
La Farge High School



**Tanner Bass**  
Luther High School



**Aaliyah Fox**  
Viroqua High School



**Braylan Zitzner**  
Viroqua High School



**Blake Hatlan**  
Westby High School



**Emma Solverson**  
Westby High School



**Madalyn Komay**  
Westby High School



**Kelsi Craker**  
Edgewood College  
Non-Traditional Scholarship

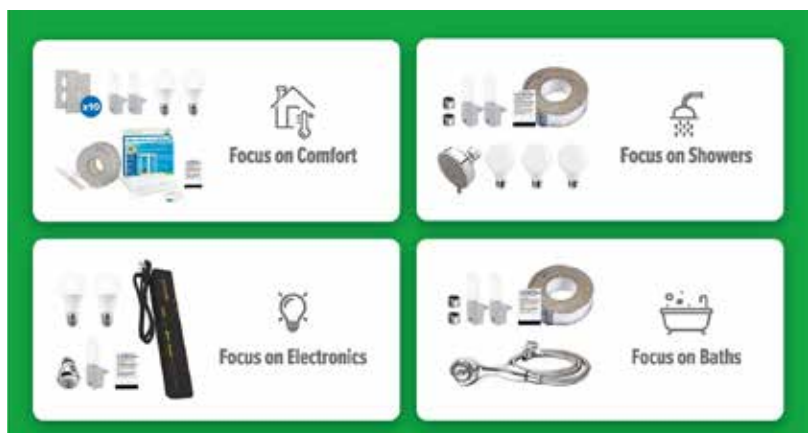
## Focus on Free Energy Savings

You heard right, energy-saving packs from FOCUS ON ENERGY® are free, seriously free. Their packs are shipped directly to you and include a variety of products designed to help you focus on reducing energy waste. Choose from packs that include energy-efficient LEDs, showerheads, and more!

### Ready to save for free?

Order your free pack now at [focusonenergymarketplace.com/free](http://focusonenergymarketplace.com/free) or give them a call at 800-762-7077. Before ordering your pack, please have your Vernon Electric account number handy. Limit of one pack per eligible household per year. Pack contents may vary.

Already ordered your free pack this year? Visit [focusonenergymarketplace.com](http://focusonenergymarketplace.com) to find discounts on more energy-saving products.



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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Courtney Moser, communications specialist. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

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