



MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SERVING AS A COMMITTEE DISTRICTPERSON



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

By Tim Holtan, CEO



As we approach the new year, we want to inform members about how they can play a crucial role in the cooperative by becoming a district

committeeperson or a director. As a member owner, you have the opportunity to get involved in the governance and decisions made at your cooperative. Our cooperative is controlled by a board of nine directors, all of whom are local members elected by you, the members. These directors make decisions that impact everyone, including themselves. As a member, you have the power to influence our cooperative's direction by voting for district committeepersons and board of directors.

Members are elected as district committeepersons through



Members participate in the 2024 District Committee Meeting.

a ballot mailed to them. Getting voted on as a district committeeperson is a four-year term with one meeting per year in February. Voting takes place three of the four years, with no district committeeperson ballot in 2025. Being a district committeeperson is important because you receive detailed presentations from the REC management team, review proposed bylaw changes, and nominate members to be on the ballot for the board of directors. At the District Committee Meeting in February, members from Districts 3, 4, and 8 can nominate candidates for the upcoming board of directors' election. Nominees must live in the district they wish to represent. These nominations for directors will be included on the ballot for members to vote on before or during the annual meeting in March.

Current district committeepersons will receive notice of the district committee meeting in January. Anyone interested in being nominated to represent their district as a district committee person or a director should visit our website, or contact Emily Dregney, HR/administrative assistant, or myself for more information.

REBATE PAPERWORK DUE DECEMBER 27



Riverland members are eligible to receive rebates for energyefficient upgrades. ENERGY STAR rated appliances, appliance recycling, central air conditioners, heat pumps, and various types of lighting are included on the 2024 forms. Agricultural and commercial rebates are also available.

Important details:

- Only items that were purchased and installed between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2024, are eligible.
- Rebates are only available while funds last. Once funds allocated for 2024 rebates are depleted, rebates will not be issued.
- Appliances must have the ENERGY STAR logo on the appliance. Send the logo in along with your form.

Rebate forms are available at www.riverlandenergy.com or at any of our offices. Please review the rebate form prior to making purchases to ensure your item meets the rebate requirements for energy efficiency.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR CO-OP BY BECOMING A DIRECTOR?

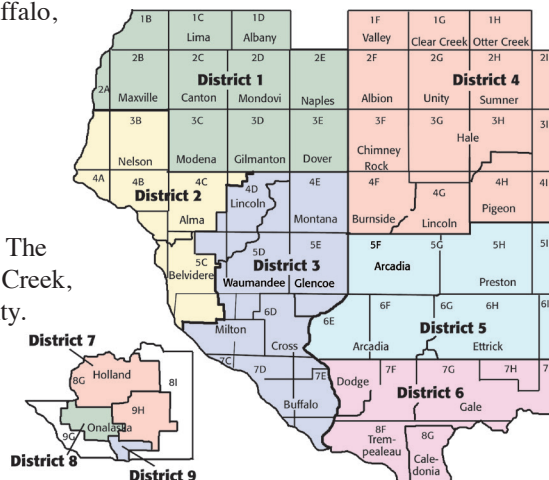
Whether you know it or not, just by being a member of Riverland Energy Cooperative, you play a major role at the cooperative.

What does this mean? You are not just small part of the cooperative or part of the quickly changing industry. By paying your bill every month, you invest in the future of the cooperative and benefit by receiving capital credits. By participating in programs like our load control or energy efficiency rebates, you engage with our efforts to support a changing electric grid. By attending events like the Annual Meeting or Member Appreciation Day, you are educating yourself on issues important to the cooperative. Every one of those actions plays an important part in the success of the cooperative.

If you are ready to step to the next level in your personal involvement in our vision and mission, consider running to be a board of director!

The following districts are up for election in 2025:

- **District 3:** Towns of Cross, Buffalo, Milton, Waumandee, Lincoln, Montana, and Glencoe and a portion of Fountain City.
- **District 4:** Towns of Albion, Unity, Sumner, Chimney Rock, Hale, Burnside, Lincoln, and Pigeon in Trempealeau County. The towns of Pleasant Valley, Clear Creek, Otter Creek in Eau Claire County. The towns of Garfield, Northfield, Franklin and Curran in Jackson County.
- **District 8:** 9G (T17N-R8W) All Sections Except Sections 1 and 2, 9H (T17N-R7W) Sections 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, and 31 All Located in La Crosse County plus, the following detail map numbers in La Crosse County: 9H29A 9H29B 9H29C 9H29D 9H29E 9H29F



Director Qualifications:

- Must be willing to abide by and uphold all Articles, Bylaws and Policies of the cooperative to the best of your ability.
- Must be bondable.
- Must agree to disclose any potential conflicts of interest and abstain from voting on any issue, which may be construed as a conflict of interest.
- Cannot be employed or have financial interest in a competing enterprise.
- Cannot gain substantial revenue from the sale of goods or services to the cooperative.
- Must disclose if closely related to an employee of the cooperative.
- Must sign an application for serving on the board of directors
- Must report any changes to qualifications while serving on board of directors.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a director or district committeeperson, please visit our website or call Emily Dregney at 608-323-3381.

How to Become a Director:

- Be a resident member of the cooperative and a bona-fide resident of the director district for which you are nominated and eligible to vote at a meeting of the membership.
- Per Bylaws, district committeepersons present at District Committee Conference from within any director district from which a director is to be elected in connection with the ensuing Annual Meeting shall meet separately and shall use their best effort to nominate two or more qualified candidates for director to represent such director district on the board of directors.
- Additional nominations for director may be made by petition signed by not less than 10 members from within such director district and filed at the office of the cooperative within 7 days after the District Committee Conference but in no event less than 20 days before the Annual Meeting.
- Be elected to serve on the Riverland Board of Directors by member vote at annual meeting.



DECK THE HALLS FOR THE HOLIDAYS SAFELY

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Riverland Energy Cooperative and Safe Electricity offer several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.



- Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
- Never string more strands of lights

together than what is recommended by the manufacturer.

- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Do not attached cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers. Also be careful when placing a decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators; water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep. Use a timer to help.

Riverland Energy Cooperative wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

2024 SERVICE MILESTONES

 <p>Sharon Sluga Operations Rep 35 years</p>	 <p>Kevin Helgeson Foreman 35 years</p>	 <p>Todd Hong Asst. Line Sup 35 years</p>
 <p>Dale Kircher Foreman 30 years</p>	 <p>Bill Mason Asst. Line Sup 25 years</p>	 <p>Brian Glass Journeyman 10 years</p>



SHINING BRIGHT: SMITH TREES HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AND JOY

Smith Trees and Landscaping has been a longtime business in the Osseo area supplying landscaping services as well as Christmas trees, wreaths, and other outdoor holiday items. Colin Smith took over the family business from his father, Dennis, in 2018. Colin mentioned that as he was growing up, they'd have multiple sites where they would sell their trees and wreaths. On average, Smith Trees sells

500 trees to the local communities.

"My favorite thing to do is create porch pots, they have become really popular. I get to be creative which I really enjoy," he said

Smith Trees products are available for purchase at 13900 Park Ave. Osseo,

WI 54758, and it officially opened for the season on November 25. They offer Fraser Fir and Balsam trees, along with wreaths and porch pots, which are created by Colin and his team. Trees range in price from \$40 to \$100, wreaths range from \$30 to \$75, and porch pots range from \$45 to \$75, depending on sizes and type. Smith Trees and Landscaping is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

When he's not busy working on landscaping projects or creating holiday décor, Colin

enjoys spending his time with his band, Tippetback Ridge, which performs in venues around the service area.

Smith Trees enjoys the opportunity to be a trusted and known provider of Christmas trees and other holiday items.




Tim Holtan, CEO
Jordan Lien, Editor

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • www.riverlandenergy.com



**Riverland Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Arcadia Office

N28988 State Road 93,
P.O. Box 277,
Arcadia, WI 54612

Holmen Office

1800 Granary St.
Holmen, WI 54636

Outages & Emergencies

Call 1-800-927-6206
24 hours a day

Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Officers of the Board of Directors:

Bea Zingsheim, Onalaska, President
Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President
Dennis Frame, Osseo,
Secretary/Treasurer