



# POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

By Tim Holtan, CEO

Fall is a busy time, October being no different. With school, sports, and community events in full swing, we get to celebrate National Co-op Month with all cooperatives across the country.

When Riverland Energy Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, we are celebrating you, our members! Without you, Riverland Energy Cooperative would not exist. One of the ways we celebrate Co-op Month is Member Appreciation Day, which this year is October 1 at the Onalaska Omni Center. I invite you and your family to come celebrate with us from 4 to 7 p.m. For additional information, please refer to last month's magazine or our website.

REC's purpose is to serve as your electricity provider. We follow the cooperative guiding principles that all cooperatives share, "Concern for Community" being one of them. We work to help our communities thrive through initiatives led by our members, employees, and Board of Directors, who live within the communities we serve.

One example is the Community Cares Foundation. This foundation is funded by our members rounding up their electric bill to the next whole dollar. The Community Cares Foundation allows us to support local emergency responders, food pantries, and additional programs throughout the community. Since 2014, we have been able to donate just over \$34,000! I would encourage all members to participate in rounding up their electric bill. For information on how to round up your bill, please go to our website or contact our office.

Other ways we support our local communities is through youth programs, Youth Ambassador Program, and scholarships. In 2024, we awarded \$33,000 to area seniors, had two students attend Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and two students attended Youth Leadership Conference held at the University of Wisconsin–Stout. We also had 20 high school students participate in our Youth Ambassador Program. These youth programs are funded through Federated Youth Foundation, which is funded by unclaimed capital credits.

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Returning capital credits is one of the greatest benefits of being a member of a cooperative. Margins, the members investment, or equity are used to help maintain and upgrade the electrical system. This investment is called allocated capital credits. Over time, your allocated capital credits are returned to you, regardless of if you are still an active member or not. In October, we are returning \$1.1 million to members of the cooperative who have used electricity prior to 2021. Your portion of the capital credits retired will show as a credit on your bill unless the member has requested a check. If you have any questions, contact our office at 800-411-9115.

As your trusted energy provider, we know that safety, reliability, and saving money are important to you. We have multiple programs in place to help, including off peak rates, rebates, and energy audits. We recently implemented a Prepaid program. This allows you to monitor your energy usage and costs daily and add money to your account when it works for you.

If you have not already, we encourage you to sign up and download our SmartHub app. Through the app, you can monitor your usage, pay your bills, add to your Prepaid account, and report outages. As always, we are here to help! Give us a call if you have questions about your usage, your bill, or any program we offer.

Riverland is always looking for ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the safe and reliable service you expect. We are your local electrical cooperative, built by the members we serve.



# MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

## Small change makes a big impact through Community Cares Grant Program

2024 so far has been a great year of giving to the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative. Through our Community Cares Grant Program, we have been able to give \$4,250 in grants to local organizations in 2024 and \$34,192 since the program began in 2014. Grants have helped local fire departments, first responders, food pantries, mental health awareness programs, and children's organizations.

Community Cares is voluntarily funded by members who have their electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar with the extra change set aside for community grants. The average donation is about \$6 per year, but

can range from \$.01-12 annually, depending on usage. Information on Community Cares and the Community Cares Application can be found on our website under Community – Community Giving – Community Cares. If you would like to participate by rounding up your bill, there are a few ways to sign up; you can fill out the participation form on our website or call our office. Grants are awarded semi-annually, with deadlines for applications in February and August each year.

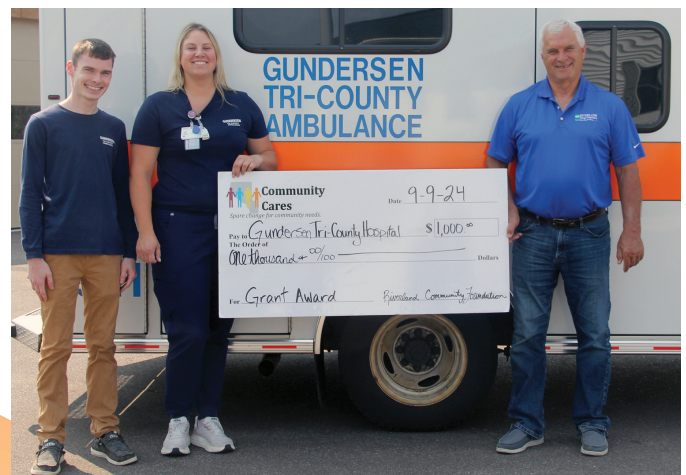
The Community Cares Program is a true “members helping members” program. By rounding up your “extra

change” from your bill, we can provide grant dollars for community programs, projects, 501C3 organizations, and non-profit organizations within Riverland Energy’s service territory. We are hoping to grow this program, so we can help more programs in our communities. Applications for the Community Cares Program are due twice a year, February and August. If you are interested in applying for the program, applications can be found on our website, [www.riverlandenergy.com/community-cares-program](http://www.riverlandenergy.com/community-cares-program), or by emailing Jordan at [jljen@riverlandenergy.com](mailto:jljen@riverlandenergy.com). If you have questions about the Community Cares Program, please call us at 800-411-9115.

Pigeon Falls First Responders aid parts of our northern service area. They are looking to replace and update old equipment, as well as purchase some new equipment such as jump bags and a vitals monitor.



Tri-County Memorial Hospital Ambulance Services provides emergency assistance to our service area. They are fundraising for a new ambulance to replace their oldest ambulance, which is 14 years old.





Hope 4 U raises awareness of suicide by ending the stigma associated with mental health. The organization focuses on prevention and awareness within our communities in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties.



The Holmen Area Food Pantry helps provide items to those in need in our service area. These items include non-perishable food items, bread, fresh vegetables, dairy, meat, and hygiene products.

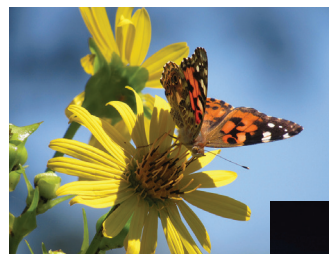


Steppin' Out In Pink is a fundraiser for cancer prevention, awareness, finding treatment options, and working towards a cure. This cause hits close to home for so many members, and we are very excited to help. Left: CEO Tim Holtan and his wife, Missy, a two-time breast cancer survivor.

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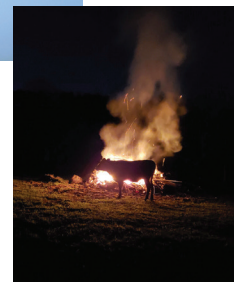
# ENTER OUR PHOTO CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT

Congratulations to Jason Halama for getting the most votes for our August photo contest. Encourage your friends to vote for their favorite photo! October is our final month for the photo contest. The October theme is **Best Member Photo Submissions of 2023–2024**. The photo receiving the most votes will win a \$250 electric bill credit and will be printed in our magazine, along with a few other favorites. Go to our Facebook page or website to vote. Voting will end on October 25.



Second place: "Beautiful flowers and butterflies" by Lisa Reid.

Third place: "Even the cows enjoy a bonfire" by Danette Teigen.



## DON'T BE TRICKED BY SAFETY MISHAPS THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a time for candy, costumes and in some cases, outdoor lighting or inflatable decorations. While preparing for and enjoying the holiday, follow these safety precautions:

### Outdoor Lighting

- Inspect each electrical decoration. Check cords for cracking, fraying or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Also, inspect for damaged plugs.
- Replace any damaged decorations.
- Make sure lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are safety tested by a reputable laboratory such as UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and approved for outdoor use.
- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into ground fault circuit interrupter-protected outlets.
- When decorating outside, look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

### Food Safety

- Do not let your little ones (or anyone) eat candy or other treats until they've been inspected at home.
- Check all labels for potential food allergens.
- If you have very young trick-or-treaters, remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys from the goodie pile.
- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as pinholes or tears in wrappers.
- Limit your risk of questionable candy by only ringing doorbells attached to homes you know.

Enjoy treats and decorate safely. Get more electrical safety tips at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).




**Tim Holtan, CEO**

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)



**Riverland Energy Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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### Holmen Office

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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:

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