



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Releases Historic Book and Re-elects Directors

At their 75th Annual Meeting on March 20, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members re-elected three directors, and each member received a book compiling the extraordinary history of the cooperative. About 500 members and families convened at The Florian Gardens, Eau Claire, to celebrate the history of the cooperative and to participate in the democratic process by electing directors. From a slate of seven candidates, three directors were re-elected: Robert Gadwill, District 2; Judith Anibas, District 4; and David Myren, District 6. Voting results are as follows:

- District 2: Robert Gadwill — 165 votes
Michael Golat 62 — votes
Dale Bontje 33 — votes
- District 4: Judith Anibas — 207 votes
Richard Cable — 55 votes
- District 6: David Myren — 243 votes
Daniel Flynn — 18 votes

Directors Re-elected at the Annual Meeting



Robert Gadwill
District 2



Judith Anibas
District 4



David Myren
District 6

Statewide Editor Speaks to History of Cooperatives in Wisconsin

Perry Baird, the editor of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine, spoke to the historic development of electric cooperatives in Wisconsin. ECEC members enjoyed Baird's light sense of humor and extensive knowledge of the development of electricity on the statewide level as he intertwined historical moments and photos from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. He closed his presentation by serenading the audience with "Singing Wires," which characterizes the history of electricity.



Perry Baird, Editor,
Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News

ECEC members serving on the Member Advisory Council were introduced by Chairman Robert Gadwill. The council is made up of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members who meet with the board chairman once every quarter to discuss energy issues and to share suggestions about the cooperative. Members interested in serving on the Member Advisory Council are encouraged to sign up at www.ecec.com.

Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship winners and high school students serving in the Youth Ambassador Program were also honored. Seventeen students were awarded a grand total of \$8,500 for higher education, with each student receiving a \$500 scholarship.

CEO Lynn Thompson ended the evening leading a special question and answer period for members. It's a tradition at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's annual meeting to offer members an open forum to ask questions of the senior staff. ■

Boettcher and Bilderback New Leaders at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Clarence Boettcher, District 9, and John Bilderback, District 5, were elected as the new chair and vice-chair, respectively, at the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Board of Directors organizational meeting on March 28. Serving on the ECEC Board since 1983 and serving as the chairman of the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board for six years, Clarence Boettcher brings many leadership skills to the position. John Bilderback has served on the ECEC Board since 1999, as its board chair from 2001–2005 and as the Energy Connections board chair from 2006–2012.

David O. Myren, District 6, was re-elected as secretary-treasurer for the ECEC board and has served in that capacity since 1996. Serving on the ECEC's board since 1976, he also served as assistant secretary-treasurer from 1977–1996. Other directors include Jerry R. Graham, District 1; Robert J. Gadwill, District 2; Mike Schummer, District 3; Judith Anibas, District 4; Andrew Bourget, District 7; and Jeffrey Frieburg, District 8. ■

(The full board is pictured on page 29.)

\$100 energy bill winners announced at the 75th annual meeting include:

Charles Loew
Gordon Waller
Jerry Thomas
Murelyn Young
Willis Meyer
Patricia Finnessy
Duane Cance
Gayle Kunz
Leona Markowski
Monroe Yule

Board Officers Elected at Their Organizational Meeting



*Clarence Boettcher,
Chair*



*John Bilderback,
Vice Chair*



*David O. Myren,
Secretary-Treasurer*

The Officers of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative are as follows:



*Lynn E. Thompson,
President & Chief
Executive Officer*



*Clarence Boettcher,
Vice-President*



*Patty Chambers,
Secretary*



*Dody Wubker, Treasurer
& Chief Financial Officer*



*Gary Brecka, Chief
Operating Officer*

Stay Smart During Electrical Storms

The unusually warm early spring weather has also generated the first storms of the season, with more surely on the way. Lightning and downed power lines are just a couple of the serious safety concerns associated with storms. Go to www.ecec.com or our Facebook page for more information regarding what to do in case of an outage and for weather information.



- Avoid metal. Don't hold onto metal items like bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets, or tools. Stay away from metal sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences.
- Stay away from water, including pools, lakes, puddles, and damp grass.
- Don't stand close to other people. Spread out.

What should I do if I am caught outside during a lightning storm?

- Move to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest available object, so get down low in a crouched position if you are in an exposed area, and cover your head.
- Stay away from trees.

What should I do if I encounter a lightning storm while driving in my car?

Do not leave your vehicle during a thunderstorm. A vehicle is considered safe during a thunderstorm, but do not use electronic devices, such as a radio.

Can I talk on the telephone during an electrical storm?

Use cellular or cordless phones; you should use corded telephones only for emergencies during a thunderstorm.

I have an outside dog. Is it okay to leave him out there during a storm?

Doghouses are not lightning-safe, and chained animals can easily become victims of lightning strikes. You should bring your pets inside to protect them.

What should I do if I encounter a downed power line?

If you see a downed power line, move at least 10 feet away from the line and anything touching it. The human body is a ready conductor of electricity.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high-voltage zone to a low-voltage zone, and it could do that through your body.

How can I help someone who has come in contact with a downed line?

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead. ▶



Alexis Aichele, a fifth-grader at Messiah Lutheran School, designed this ad for Eau Claire Energy Cooperative as part of the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram Design an Ad contest. Alexis's favorite subject in school is language. When she's not in school, she enjoys visiting with her cousins in the summer and building snowmen in the winter. Her hobbies are scrapbooking, ice skating, and drawing, and her favorite foods are strawberries and pickles.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Director Districts



District 2:
Robert J. Gadwill



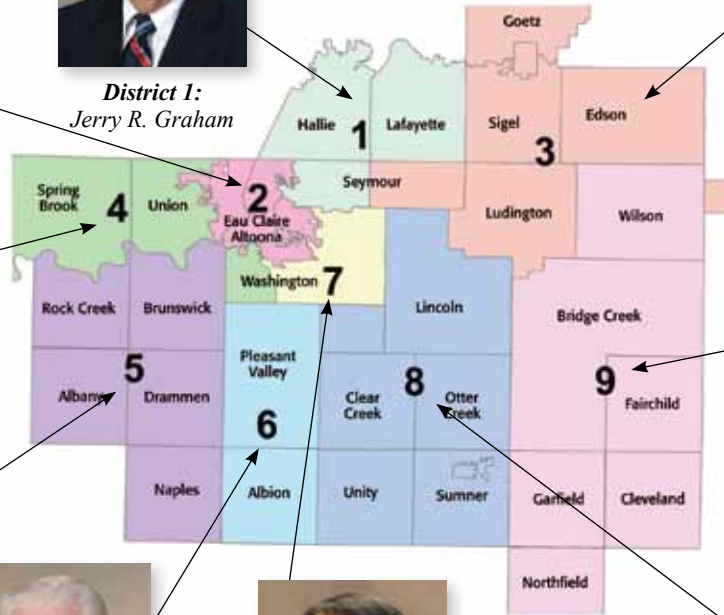
District 1:
Jerry R. Graham



District 3:
Mike Schummer



District 4:
Judith Anibas



District 9:
Clarence L. Boettcher,
Chair



District 5:
John Bilderback,
Vice Chair



District 6:
David O. Myren,
Secretary-Treasurer



District 7:
Andrew Bourget



District 8:
Jeffrey Frieberg

Electrical Safety *(Continued from previous page)*

Can I use something that is not metal to try to move a downed power line?

Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity.

What if a power line comes down on my car or I drive into one?

If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle. If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the car. ■

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Cooperative**

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