


Vernon Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

"Information for our member-owners."

Co-op Members Appreciated

Vernon Electric held its annual Member Appreciation Picnic in June at its headquarters in Westby. The Picnic helps fulfill one of the Co-op Principles - Commitment to Community. Members of the rural community came together to converse around the dinner table in a relaxed,

festive atmosphere. Another Principle we have as a Cooperative is educating our members. The picnic offers the opportunity for members to get information and view displays about Co-op programs, operations, safety, and how to use electricity wisely. Employees and directors were also on hand to answer any questions members of the Co-op had. We were happy to see approximately 600 members stop by and enjoy a brat or hot dog dinner.

Thank you for being a member of Vernon Electric Cooperative. Our employees take great pride in providing you excellent service. Your business is appreciated.



Two boys guess the length of a wire reel at one of the games



The Dobbs Family getting ready to enjoy their meal together.



Over 600 members enjoyed this year's picnic.

Picnic Prize Winners:

Culver's \$10 gift card

Paige Hoeft – Cashton
Nathan Metz – Soldier's Grove

Subway \$5 gift card

Vanessa Voehl – Westby
Meghan Nelson – Westby
Levi Cameron – La Crosse
Riley Cade – Viroqua
Ethan Oakes – Ontario
Aimee Sis – Cashton

\$25 bill credit

Wire Reel Guessing Game
James Schipper – Westby

Operation Round Up drawing:

Glen Stalsberg – Westby

Registration \$25 bill credit:

Dale Hanson – Ontario
Michael Stephen – Viroqua

Premier Meats gift certificate:

Reuben Starch – Coon Valley

Steve's Country Meats gift certificate:

Stanley Eno – La Farge

Von Ruden Meats gift certificate:

Myron Rundhaugen – Cashton

Electric Skillet: Orville Bay – Stoddard

Fan: Arnold Lewis, Sr. – La Farge

Crock Pot: Daniel Gilbertson – Readstown

Coffee Pot: Judith Jochen – Cashton

Beverage Dispenser: Cindy George – Chaseburg

Serving Set: Betty Theige – Viroqua

Gardening Set: Mary Spearow – Readstown

Drill: David Milne – Cashton

Hand blender: Sylvia Fortney – Viroqua

Meet the Power behind the Power

Meeet Lisa. Lisa is a new member service representative at Vernon Electric and will likely be the person you first talk to if you call or come into the office. She began her duties in April of this year and is doing a great job. Lisa says she really enjoys the people she works with and is looking forward to her duties working with the membership of the cooperative. Lisa is no stranger to cooperatives or the energy business as she worked for a cooperative propane business before coming to Vernon Electric.



Lisa lives with her husband and four boys on a beef farm in Newton Valley near Romance. Her boys range in age from five to thirteen. Her hobbies include RV camping and gardening. She grew up in Viroqua and graduated from Viroqua High School. After high school she obtained degrees in computers and accounting from Western Technical College.

Please join us in welcoming Lisa to our co-op family the next time you have the opportunity to meet her.

Operation Round Up Program Aids Local People

Vernon Electric Cooperative started Operation Round Up several years ago as an opportunity to help charity organizations and families in need. The program is completely voluntary and allows co-op members to round-up their electric bill to the next nearest dollar. The extra change is then donated to a worthy cause.



For example, if your electric bill is \$91.56, it would be rounded up to \$92. The difference (44 cents) would then go into the Operation Round Up Trust Fund. An elected volunteer board looks at applications on a quarterly basis and chooses where to donate the funds. The more co-op members that participate, the greater amount of money can be donated. The average donation would amount to \$6 per year per participating member.

Vernon Electric Cooperative members can join the program by checking the appropriate box on their electric bill, or simply by contacting Vernon Electric. You can withdraw from the program at any time. For more information call 608-634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051. Web site information is at www.vernonelectric.org.



Dave Dregne, Operation Round Up Board Secretary, presents a \$500 donation to Sgt. Bruce Olson, coordinator for the Vernon County Crimestopper's program.

WCCU is a Paystation for Vernon Electric

For your convenience a new paystation has been created at all WCCU Credit Union locations. WCCU will accept Vernon Electric bill payments and forward them on to Vernon Electric Cooperative for you. A list of all Vernon Electric Paystations is listed below:

- Cashton – WCCU
105 Randy Rd..... 654-7580
- Hillsboro – Farmers Co-op Warehouse
140 Short St..... 489-2231
- La Farge – La Farge State Bank
119 Main St..... 625-2480
- Ontario – TNT Grocery Store
311 Main St..... 337-4880
- Readstown – La Farge State Bank
111 W. Wisconsin Ave..... 629-5510
- Reedsburg – WCCU
820 Viking Dr..... 768-9228
- Richland Center – WCCU
2403 US Hwy. 14 East..... 647-8835
Mobil Mart, 1001 US Hwy. 14 West
- Stoddard – River Bank
145 N. Main St..... 457-2100
- Viroqua – State Bank
101 N. Main St..... 637-3127
Vernon Square, 1230 N. Main St.
- Viroqua – WCCU
1302 North Main St..... 637-6200
- Westby – WCCU
501 North Main St..... 634-3118

Diggers Hotline – Did You Know...

Only utility-owned lines are located when you call Diggers Hotline, not private lines. When you call Diggers Hotline they will contact the local utilities or their contractors to locate only the utilities' facilities in the area of excavation. The electric wires from the electric meter into your home belong to you. An electrician needs to be called to have those wires marked. Some private electricians in the area you could call to locate your lines are:

- Viola Area: Geary Electric.....627-1423**
- Elroy/Hillsboro Area: Leatherberry Electric462-8677**
- La Crosse Area: Lavold Trenching & Locating786-2381**

- ▲ It's THE LAW – Wisconsin Statute 182.0175 requires all excavators – including homeowners and construction contractors to contact Diggers Hotline at least three days before starting the work.
- ▲ Call 811 at least three working days ahead (keep in mind Labor Day, Sept. 5th, is not a working day)
- ▲ Call even if you are just planting a tree or installing a fence
- ▲ You must not use power tools within a horizontal distance of 18 inches of the marked lines
- ▲ It's Free – Calling Diggers Hotline three working days before you begin your project to have buried lines beneath your jobsite located is free. However, if you damage a buried facility without a call to Diggers Hotline, you will be financially responsible for the damage, as well as a fine of up to \$2,000.

▲ It's Easy – Protect yourself from underground utilities (electric, gas & communications) by calling Diggers Hotline first.



Be Wary of Mail Scams

You may get a card in the mail that:

- Is from a company you cannot find any information about
- Claims it will save you lots of money
- Offers a free dinner
- Asks you to bring your spouse
- Does not tell you exactly what they are selling



Scams like this have been going on for years. The high-pressure selling techniques these scammers use are very effective and have been time-tested. Before considering buying a product from these sales techniques, make sure you do your homework. Be sure to get unbiased opinions on the product, such as government sponsored websites like www.nist.gov (National Institute of Standards and Technology) or by simply doing an Internet search on the product where you can find multiple opinions on the product.

Feel free to call Vernon Electric with questions about suspicious products being offered to you that claim to drastically lower your electric bill. Vernon Electric is a not-for-profit Cooperative that always has your best interests in mind.