

## Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

# Many Thanks During the Giving Season



Vernon Electric was a collection point for toys during December. Vernon Electric employees, directors, and members helped by donating to the cause. Thank you to everyone who donated. Also, thanks go to Vernon Communications who matched all the toys we donated. Pictured are Emily Rozeske, VCC Member Relations Manager, and Joe McDonald, VEC CEO and General Manager.



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The Friends of Readstown recently received a grant from Vernon Electric's Federated Youth Foundation, with a match from Co-Bank, for a total of \$2,000. The money will be used to help with economic development efforts after devastating flooding in late August and early September. Pictured are: Friends of Readstown Member, RJ Howell and his daughter; Village Clerk, Susan Mueller; and VEC Board Member, Dave Dregne.



In the spirit of Thanksgiving and all the great work our local food pantries do, Vernon Electric Co-op made a \$1,000 donation to each of the eight food pantries in our area. Pictured with the VEC board and CEO, Joe McDonald, are: Phyllis Malin (Cashton Cupboard & Closet); Candace Toltzman (Living Faith Food Pantry, Viroqua); Jim & Kari Tikal and Joyce Abernathy (Trinity United Church of Christ, La Crosse); and Pastor Gary Daines (Bethel Butikk, Westby). Other food pantries receiving funds were: New Hope United Methodist Church, De Soto; La Farge Free Methodist Church; Good Samaritan Thrift Store & Pantry, Hillsboro; and Viola United Methodist Church. Funds came from VEC's Federated Youth Foundation.

# Cast your ballot for your co-op representative

Members in the following Divisions will receive a list in the mail of all the members in their township or village:

- Division III** Towns of Sterling, Franklin, and Jefferson (Vernon Co.)
- Division VI** Towns of Jefferson (Monroe Co.), Sheldon, Clinton, and Whitestown
- Division IX** Towns of Hillsboro, Greenwood, Henrietta, Woodland, La Valle, Wonewoc, Westford, and Ironton
- Division X** Village of Readstown

We ask that you select five members to represent you at the District Conference to be held February 9, 2019. The two lowest of the five top vote receivers will be the alternates. Your vote is important, and those elected are invited to attend the District Conference. Business reports and work plans will be discussed, and director candidates will be selected for those divisions having elections.



Remember, when you get your ballot, choose five members, sign the ballot envelope, and return it to our office in the self-addressed, stamped envelope by **January 10, 2019**.



# SAVE THE DATE!

**Mt. La Crosse Ski Night**  
Feb 15 • 4-9 p.m.

Special rates for Vernon Electric Cooperative members. More info coming in next month's newsletter, in the News & Events section of our website, and on our Facebook page.



# Scholarships available from VEC

Application Deadline is January 23

(Information on traditional scholarships was in last month's newsletter and can also be found on our website)

## Nontraditional scholarship

This \$750 scholarship is awarded to a member who is returning to school in a two or four-year program at least three years after graduating from high school.

## Line Worker Scholarship

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Anyone who is a high school senior or older, and a member of Vernon Electric Cooperative may apply. Recipients must enroll in a full-time power line program. The scholarship is awarded after the first semester. This is a one-time per member award.

The purpose of the Line Worker Scholarship is to aid and encourage men and women in the local area to pursue an electrical line worker career. Line workers make up a large percentage of Vernon Electric's

workforce and are an important asset to the cooperative and community. Their primary duty is to build, maintain, and repair power lines, which are a lifeline to the community and a connection to the local economy.

**Applications and guidelines** can be downloaded at [www.vernonelectric.org](http://www.vernonelectric.org) under "Forms" or picked up at Vernon Electric's office in Westby. You can have a scholarship application mailed to you by calling 608-634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051. The deadline for scholarship applications to be received by Vernon Electric's office is **Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 4:30 p.m.**

Scholarship are chosen in a random drawing at the January Board Meeting from all the completed and verified applications received. Each applicant is welcome to be present during the drawing. The winner will be announced at Vernon Electric's Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2019. These scholarship funds are made available from unclaimed capital credits of the Cooperative.



# Portable Electric Heaters

## Three main heater designs:



- **High-Temperature Radiant:** These are characterized by the glowing red heating elements and shiny mirrored reflector behind the coils. Radiant heaters don't heat the air, rather they "beam" their warmth directly to people or objects in the room like the sun's warmth.
- **Natural Convection:** Instead of red-hot coils, they distribute the same amount of heat over a wider surface to the heater. This allows the flow of air over their surface (natural convection) to transfer heat to the air. These are often seen as long, slender base-board designs. Others look like old-fashioned cast iron radiators. They are warm to the touch, but not hot enough to burn you. On a watt-for-watt basis natural convection heaters put out as much warmth, but you don't feel the intense heat as from a radiant design.
- **Fan-Forced:** This relies on a blower to push air over the heating coils. Designed like a "mini furnace" these heaters must warm the air in the room to increase comfort. They don't rely on a large surface area to transfer their heat to the air so fan-forced heaters are often smaller in size than other designs. Keep in mind that small fans are also present in radiant heaters too. If most of the heat radiates out from visible glowing coils it is classified as a radiant heater.

## Facts about these types of heaters:

Many portable electric heaters are being marketed using misleading information. The energy and cost saving **claims are based on the idea that you turn down the temperature of your home's primary heating system** and use the portable heater to spot heat the area you are occupying.

Portable electric heaters range in price from around \$20 to \$300. Heaters with the same wattage will produce the same amount of heat. How the heaters distribute the heat may differ as explained above. The difference between a \$20 and \$300 portable electric heater of the same wattage and same design (radiant, convection or fan-forced) would be the appearance only. Cooperative members should keep in mind that **all portable electric heaters are 100 percent efficient** and watt per watt, they all provide the same heat output and cost the same to operate. When purchasing a portable electric heater, the most important consideration is the number of watts it draws. The higher the watts, the more heat it will deliver and the more it will cost to operate.

### Example of how to calculate the cost of running a portable electric heater:

1,500 watts/1,000 = 1.5 Kilowatts (KW)  
 1.5 KW x 12 hours per day operation = 18 kilowatt-hours per day (kWh)  
 18 kWh x 30 days in a billing period = 540 kWh per month  
 540 kWh x \$0.109 per kWh = \$58.86 per month to operate

# DoWATT'S Right!



## 2019 Energy Star Appliance Rebates

If looking for new household products, look for ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and US Department of Energy.

### Vernon Electric offers rebates for the following ENERGY STAR Appliances:

- ENERGY STAR Refrigerators ..... Up to \$75
- ENERGY STAR Dehumidifiers ..... Up to \$25
- ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer ..... Up to \$25
- Heat Pump Clothes Dryer ..... Up to \$50
- ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers..... Up to \$75
- ENERGY STAR Dish Washer..... Up to \$25

### Recycling Rebates:

- Appliance must be in working order when recycled.
- Recycled Freezer..... Up to \$25
- Recycled Refrigerator..... Up to \$25
- Recycled Room Air Conditioner..... Up to \$25

Rebate forms and details are available by request, visiting our office, or download from our website at [vernonelectric.org](http://vernonelectric.org). Detailed receipts are required with applications. Submit rebate application within 3 months of purchase.

## Watt's New

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:  
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