

## Vernon Electric Cooperative Honoring our Veterans

This Veteran's Day Vernon Electric Cooperative salutes America's veterans for their historic and ongoing service and sacrifice to our nation.

Vernon Electric Cooperative is proud of the fact that presently almost 20% of our employees are military veterans. We take this time to thank these employees and to also thank the many retired employees who served our country and to remember the sacrifices of those many veteran employees who are no longer with us.

*"Information for our member-owners."*



Don Gander



Andy Hefel



Matt Hirschfield



Jason Johnson



John LaDue

## VEC Contractors May Be in Your Area

Personal security is always an issue. Therefore, Vernon Electric would like to keep you informed of official contractors who do work for us and may, at times, need to access your property to do work on Vernon Electric's equipment. Here is a list of current contractors we use:

- Chapman Metering – meter testing and replacement
- Asplundh Tree Expert Co. – tree and right-of-way maintenance
- Zielies Tree Service – tree and right-of-way maintenance
- Karcz Utility Services – pole testing and line inspection
- Push, Inc. – underground and overhead line construction
- Vannguard Utility Services – underground wire locating



*This Chapman Metering employee, standing with his van, is contracted by Vernon Electric Co-op to replace and test electric meters.*

You may see any one of these contractors working in your area. You may have one of these contractors knock on your door letting you know they are working on your property as a Vernon Electric contractor. Please feel free to contact Vernon Electric if you ever have any questions or concerns.

## Call 811

**Before Digging, Auguring, Back Hoeing, or Putting in a Fence!**

Dial 811 a few days prior to digging and your call will be routed to your local Diggers Hotline Service. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing and your affected local utilities companies will be notified about your intent to dig. In a few days, they'll send a locator to mark the approximate location of utility underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below - and be able to dig safely.



**Know what's below. Call before you dig.**

Remember, always call 811 before you start any digging project! You'll avoid injury, expense, embarrassment - and a very inconvenient day in the dark.

For more information on your local Diggers Hotline, or to make an online request for utilities to be marked please visit [www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com).

## Phone Scam Alert

Phone scammers continue being reported using Vernon Electric's name and phone number trying to scam people to get personal information or money. Some things to remember...

- Scammers may call you on your phone saying they are from Vernon Electric
- Your caller ID may show the call is coming from Vernon Electric
- If the call seems suspicious, you are probably being scammed
- To verify if the call is legitimate, hang up and call Vernon Electric back at it's normal, listed phone number (800-447-5051 or 608-634-3121)

## Fair Winners

Congratulations to our Vernon County Fair Winners: **Rodney Hasburgh** won the newsletter coupon drawing, and **Marne Theige** won the general drawing. Each will get a \$25 credit on their next electric statement.

# Community Organizations Receive Operation Round Up Grants

Couleecap's Supportive Housing Program and Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center's Reach Out and Read Program both received a \$1,000 Operation Round Up Grant for their respective programs.

## Reach Out and Read – Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center

Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center's award went towards a Dental book program. This grant will be used to buy books that will be given to children during dental visits. With this award, Scenic Bluffs will be able to purchase the first 300 to 500 books.



Vernon Electric Co-op Director, Dan Korn, presents an Operation Round Up Grant to dental health team members at Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center. L to R: Karen Stilen, Adriana Eisen, Marina Abt, Katie O'Conner, Terri White, and Dan Korn.

With a similar program in place for their medical department, Scenic Bluffs wanted to extend this service into the dental department. "We know the critical importance of access to books and reading to young children, and staff at the Health Center wanted to extend this amazing resource to our dental patients and their families," said Dr. Julie Domeyer, Dental Director at Scenic Bluffs. She added, "Children who are not read to in the home can suffer once they enter school, and becoming familiar with books at a young age prepares them for lifelong learning." 41% of the Health Center's patients are children.

## Supportive Housing - Couleecap

The primary goal of the Supportive Housing Program is to move individuals and families from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Those in the program work on goals such as finding employment, improving their housing stability, and increasing their self-determination. The Supportive Housing Program offers special support services to homeless participants who are disabled or experiencing mental health issues.

For every dollar Vernon Electric Cooperative donated, Couleecap will receive \$4.00 in federal funding. "This \$1,000 gift allows us to bring \$4,000 of federal assistance to Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties. Vernon Electric Cooperative's support will provide leasing, housing, and extensive support services to individuals and families who are homeless"

said Kim Cable, Couleecap's Housing & Community Services Director.

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Vernon Electric Co-op Director, Orlan Bakkum, presents an Operation Round Up Grant to Hetti Brown, Couleecap Executive Director.

## About Operation Round Up

Vernon Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Trust provides charitable contributions to individuals and organizations for food, shelter, education, and community oriented projects. More than 300 Vernon Electric Cooperative members voluntarily have their electric bill 'rounded up' to the next nearest dollar amount. The rounded-up amount is then given back locally as charitable contributions. "For only pennies a month, Vernon Electric members are making a difference in our community," said Vernon Electric's CEO Joe McDonald.

To participate in the Operation Round Up program, check off the Operation Round Up box on your electric bill, or send an e-mail with your account number to [info@vernonelectric.org](mailto:info@vernonelectric.org), indicating your wish to join the program. You may opt out of the program at any time.

## About Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center

Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center is an independent, non-profit healthcare provider, providing medical, dental, chiropractic, behavioral health, health education and pharmacy services for patients in Monroe, Vernon, Crawford and La Crosse counties. Scenic Bluffs has Health Centers in both Cashton and Norwalk, dental services in Viroqua and behavioral health services in Sparta. Scenic Bluffs also maintains Lugar de Reunion, a Hispanic outreach center, in Sparta.

## About Couleecap

Couleecap, Inc. is a private non-profit 501c3 charitable organization. Couleecap helps people in need with housing, food, transportation, and more. Created in 1966, they are a community action program that fights poverty and promotes self-sufficiency in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties.

**DoWATT'S**  
Right!

**with a Home Energy Assessment or Audit**

In 2017 Vernon Electric is offering a rebate up to \$1,300 to have your home tested and upgraded to improve efficiency. The rebate is divided into two parts.

The first part is a rebate up to \$300 to have your home inspected by a certified or Vernon Electric authorized home auditor or assessor. This typically involves a blower-door test and infrared scan of the home followed up with itemized recommendations for improvements.

The second part is a rebate of 50%, up to \$1,000, toward improvements made based on the auditor's recommendations. Rebates must be applied for no later than 3 months after recommended measures are implemented. Rebates are in place through December 31, 2017 or until funds are depleted. Please see the rebate form found on our website for full details, or call our office to have a rebate form sent to you.

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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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