Watt's New

November 2026



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

Monthly Co-op Trivia

OCTOBER TRIVIA:

True or False: You should use a staple or small nail to neatly pin an extension cord along a baseboard.

Answer: *False. You should never use staples or nails to pin an extension cord along a baseboard. Staples can easily pierce or pinch the cord's outer protective jacket. This damages the internal insulation, which exposes live electrical wires, creating a serious risk of electrical shock or fire.*

NOVEMBER TRIVIA:

What unit is used to measure electrical current

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Celebrating Co-op Month at Our Member Appreciation Picnic

In celebration of Co-op Month, Vernon Electric Cooperative welcomed members to its annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Tuesday, October 20. The event provided an opportunity to thank our members for being part of the cooperative and for their continued support.

This year's menu featured pork sandwiches and hot dogs from Von Ruden Meats, cheesy potatoes and coleslaw from Kickapoo Corners, buns and cookies from Grandma's Bakery, and cheese curds from Driftless Cheese. The food was excellent, and we were proud to support a few of our cooperative members who contribute to our local economy.

The Vernon County Sheriff's Department joined us to raise awareness about an option provided by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation that allows individuals to voluntarily add emergency contact information to their driver's license. The "To Inform Families First" or "TIFF" law was put in place to provide law enforcement the ability to contact a family member or other loved one more quickly in the event of an emergency.

Members also had the opportunity to win several door prizes throughout the event, including items generously donated by local cooperatives such as Organic Valley, Premier Co-op, WCCU, and Vernoncom. These contributions highlighted one of the cooperative principles we celebrate during Co-op Month: Cooperation Among Cooperatives. By supporting one another, we can strengthen our organizations and the communities we serve.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this annual tradition a success. We appreciate the opportunity to connect with our members and celebrate what makes our cooperative community special!



Sheriff Torgerson never misses a photo opportunity as he stands with VEC members (left) and VEC Director Dan Korn (right)



Youth Delegates - Braxtyn & Bennett

Scholarships available from VEC

Scholarships are available to students whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are members of Vernon Electric Cooperative. The high school seniors selected will each receive a $1,000 scholarship for the college or university they decide to attend.

Scholarship funding comes from unclaimed capital credit checks that are turned over to the Federated Youth Foundation (FYF). As a nonprofit organization, FYF administers a trust that supports various Wisconsin cooperatives, including electric cooperatives, by providing funding for youth scholarships through Vernon Electric Cooperative.

Applicants from each of the high schools listed, **plus one at-large applicant**, will be selected by random drawing at the January Board Meeting from all completed and verified applications received.

Eligible Schools:

- Aquinas
- Brookwood
- Cashton
- De Soto
- Hillsboro
- Kickapoo
- La Crosse Central
- La Farge
- Onalaska Luther
- Royall
- Sparta
- Viroqua
- Westby
- Wonewoc-Center
- Youth Initiative High School

$1,000 Non-Traditional Scholarship

This 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

$1,000 Line Worker Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a high school senior whose parent or legal guardian are active members of Vernon Electric Co-op or a graduate who is an active member. Enrollment in a full-time power line program is required with a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

Scholarship applications are available online at **www.vernonelectric.org/scholarships**, by calling our office, or through school counselors. **The deadline to apply is January 20, 2027.**

Understanding Your Winter Electric Bill

As temperatures begin to drop across Wisconsin, many households will see their electric use increase as heating systems work harder to keep homes comfortable. Understanding what drives your electric bill can help you identify opportunities to manage energy use throughout the winter.



Homes with electric heating, including heat pumps and electric resistance heating, may experience higher electricity use during extended periods of cold weather. Supplemental heating, space heaters, and increased time spent indoors can also contribute to higher usage.

Fortunately, a few simple steps can help you manage your energy consumption. Set your thermostat to a comfortable but efficient temperature, replace furnace filters regularly, seal drafts around windows and doors, and keep heating vents clear of furniture and other obstructions.

Space heaters can provide supplemental warmth, but it's important to understand the added cost that comes with using them. Many portable electric space heaters use approximately 1,500 watts of electricity. Running one for eight hours a day can add about 12 kilowatt-hours of electricity to your daily usage, or roughly 360 kWh over a 30-day month. At an electric rate of 11.25 cents per kWh, that could add approximately $40.50 to your monthly bill. Actual costs will vary based on the heater, how often it runs, and your electric rate. Always follow the manufacturer's safety instructions and never leave a space heater unattended.

It can also be helpful to monitor your electricity usage throughout the month rather than waiting for your bill to arrive. With SmartHub, members can easily track their current electricity use, compare usage with previous months, recognize seasonal changes, and better understand how their household uses electricity.

At Vernon Electric Cooperative, we understand that keeping your home comfortable while managing energy costs is important. Taking a few proactive steps now can help you prepare for the colder months ahead while making informed decisions about your energy use.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Director of Member Services. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

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