

Taylor Report

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451 • 715-678-2411 • www.taylorlectric.org



December 2019

Start a Tradition of Safety this Season



The holiday season is full of traditions. Whether it is eating certain foods, mailing cards, giving gifts, or spreading cheer through decorations, these traditions bring comfort and warmth to the season. This year, Safe Electricity encourages you to incorporate another activity into your holiday traditions—safe holiday decorating.

Holiday decorations are one of the most festive yet also one of the most dangerous parts of the season. Make a point to take care of yourself and those you love by taking all the necessary time to decorate safely—without skipping any safety steps—for the holidays.

Shawn Miller knows firsthand how important every safety step is and how quickly holiday festivities can turn into tragedies. When helping his mother decorate the trees in her front yard for Christmas, he had not noticed that the trees had grown into the overhead power lines. When he threw a strand of lights up into the tree, he was seriously injured. Miller lost his left hand and suffered numerous other injuries in the tragic accident. You can learn more about his story at SafeElectricity.org.

Miller and Safe Electricity urge everyone to follow these precautions:

- When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines

- attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them. GFCI protection is very important outdoors, where weather conditions can create dangerous electrical situations.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, and do not attach cords to utility poles.
- Outdoor holiday lights are for seasonal use, up to 90 days. Bring them inside after the holidays.
- Avoid decorating outside on windy or wet days. Choose to decorate in favorable weather conditions and during daylight hours.

Safe Electricity hopes your season will be full of happy and safe traditions. For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov



The office will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th for Christmas and Wednesday, January 1st.

Have a safe and blessed holiday season from everyone at Taylor Electric.

Board Report – Oct. 2019

- Approved September disbursements totaling \$349,179.06, accepted 14 new member applications, and August construction in the amount of \$81,391.01.
- Reviewed financial results through September 30, 2019 with \$390,636 Operating Margins and \$483,955 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 11 outages in September and 97 outages for the year to date, with average YTD outage time per member of 2.0 hours.
- Four applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estate were approved with total capital credits of \$3,242.75 to be paid out at the net present value of \$1,234.35.
- Approval was given to renew the contract for energy efficiency programs thru Focus on Energy for the years 2020-2022.
- The Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) report by Director Zenner included: a financial review indicating Total Margins of \$1.2 Million for September, \$2.3 Million better than budget. Year to date Margins are \$19.6 Million compared to \$15.2 Million in 2018 and \$17.9 Million in 2017; report on natural gas industry indicating prices probably headed lower; PSC ruling on permitting for the Ntec generating plant expected by January 1, 2020 with some recent questions about aquifer levels in the Superior area; DPC spending \$12 Million on Accounting software upgrades; NERC compliance testing occurring every year now; consideration given to writing down Regulatory Assets by offsetting excess 2019 margins; and, Divisional Costs (expenses) are down with no expectation they will come back yet this year
- 38 delinquent Accounts were processed for collection following the September 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$13,352.70. Twenty-eight of these accounts have remote disconnect capability.
- CEO Schaefer gave an update on: the Co-op's contractor for underground locate requests had their local employee quit causing some locating disruptions and delays; review of successful Member Appreciation event on October 3rd; disappointment with progress of Taylor County Broadband Committee contractor, Vantage Point Solutions, as next State broadband grant due date nears; employee hiring update; and, the Co-op's standby generator repairs expected to be covered under warranty.
- Directors Albers reviewed the WECA board leadership training programs he attended in October: "How to Evaluate and Improve Board Performance" and "Strategic Technologies and Their Impact on the Cooperative".
- The September safety meeting report by Director Hallgren covered an in the field observation of the crews. The great crew interaction and working relationship of the 4-man construction crew was noted.
- Chairman Tesch discussed the impact of the Guatemalan electrification project that was recently performed by 12 linemen from Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. Dean was able to visit on behalf of CFC and observe the final results. He noted the great appreciation of the Guatemalan people, who have very little in the way of creature comforts. Photos from the WECA Facebook page were viewed. These and/or a video being prepared for WECA could be useful for the 2020 Annual Meeting.
- A summary of the October Strategic Planning discussions was provided including a list of governance topics for board consideration and a list of the "most important focus for the new CEO".

For sale on sealed bids:

2010 Ford F150 Ext. cab, white with white topper, 4.6L V8, premium cloth captain's chairs, trailer tow package, some rust, runs good, 150,919 miles. May be seen at Taylor Electric Cooperative, N1831 State Hwy 13, Medford, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM. Bids accepted until 4:00 PM on December 13, 2019.



2019 Christmas Wish Program

You can make someone's Christmas a little brighter by participating in the 23rd annual Christmas Wish program. For those whose spirits could use a little lift during holidays, simply submit a wish until Friday, December 13th to WIGM/WKEB radio station at 715-748-2566.

