

Taylor Report



May 2026

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May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Strawberry Month and National Barbecue Month. Yum! While those two observances sound incredibly tasty and definitely worth celebrating, May is also Electrical Safety Month—and we're here to help keep you safe.

Electricity can be extremely dangerous but is often out of sight, out of mind. While you can see, smell, or hear some electrical hazards, such as outlets that are warm to the touch or lights that constantly flicker, many others are invisible and undetectable. Be sure to always respect electricity and the potential danger that comes with its distribution and use.

There are precautions you can take both inside and outside your home when it comes to possible electrical dangers. If outdoors, always be aware of overhead power line locations and never come within 10 feet of a line — for example, while trimming trees or carrying a tall ladder or other far-reaching object. Also, if you see a downed power line near your home or in your travels, always assume it is live (energized) and NEVER go near one.

Safe Electricity and Taylor Electric offer these other electrical safety tips:

- Cell phones make strange bedfellows. Do not sleep or lounge in bed with a cell phone or other device that is charging. This can cause burns to your skin or it can cause the soft bedding materials to ignite. Do not use cheap chargers. Instead, use the original charging components that came with your cell phone or other electronics. When it comes time to replace them, spend a little extra to buy brand-specific chargers and cubes. Using cheaply made generic chargers with your electronics can cause injury (shock/burns) or even a fire since they may be defective.
- Charging devices and water don't mix: Do not use a plugged-in (charging) cell phone near water. Take a break from your phone while bathing, swimming or sitting in a hot tub. Deaths have occurred when a plugged-in cell phone has fallen into water.
- Do not overload outlets or circuits. While it can be tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or on one circuit, drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring, or cause more serious problems such as a fire.
- Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home. If your

lights flicker often, if your outlets are warm to the touch or appear discolored, or if you smell odors like something is overheating but can't determine where the odors are coming from, there may be problems with your home's electrical system. There might also be a problem if your circuits or fuses need to be tripped or changed often. If you notice any of these symptoms or other unusual electrical oddities in your home, consult a qualified electrician.

- Make sure your home is protected with AFCIs, which stands for arc fault circuit interrupters. When there is an arc fault, it means that an electrical source in your home is malfunctioning. When that happens, an arc (intense heat or light) can be discharged. Because of that, AFCIs are required by National Electric Code since they help prevent home fires. Have a professional electrician assess your home to make sure AFCIs are installed, especially if your home is older.
- Include electrical sources when baby or childproofing your home. There are many electrical components that toddlers and children can tamper with, such as exposed outlets, dangling cords, and accessible power strips or surge protectors. Tamper-resistant outlets became required by the NEC (National Electric Code) in 2008; many homes built before then do not have them.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org

—Source: safeelectricity.org

PLEASE NOTE

Again this year, your annual report will not be sent as an individual booklet, but instead will be printed in the June edition of the WEC News. **This is important to note because your registration slip for the annual meeting will be in the magazine.**

The annual meeting is set for Tuesday, June 23rd at the Centennial Community Center, Stetsonville, with registration and dinner beginning at 4:30 PM, and the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Summer Office Hours

- Beginning the week of Monday, May 4th, we will start summer hours through the week of August 31st. Office hours will be Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM– 4:00 PM and Friday 7:30 AM-11:30 AM.
- The office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th . We remember and honor those who gave all for our freedom.

Absentee Ballots by Request

Taylor Electric's annual meeting is set for Tuesday, June 23rd at the Centennial Community Center, Stetsonville, WI. Registration starts at 4:30 PM with dinner served during this time. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM. In the event you can't attend the annual meeting, we have the option of Absentee Ballots. Call to have your ballot mailed or stop by the office to pick one up. Account verification will be necessary with both methods. Simply submit the completed ballot back to the office by Monday, June 22nd. As always, in-person voting will still be available at the annual meeting! Absentee Ballots will be available after May 8, 2026. There are no contested director seats, therefore the absentee ballots will only contain the option to vote for the proposed bylaw changes. The full red-line version of the proposed bylaw changes are available on our website at www.taylorlectric.org and will also be printed in the annual report.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 1

Summary: Current bylaw language regarding joint memberships is inconsistent in some respects regarding the treatment of joint memberships and membership interests when a joint member dies. The following amendment is proposed to clarify and confirm that all joint memberships will be treated as joint memberships with right of survivorship and not as joint memberships as tenants in common. This change will ensure that membership interests will remain with the surviving joint member(s) when a joint member dies. Relatedly, this change will facilitate the cooperative's tracking of membership interests and capital credits. Additional related clean-up changes are also included in this proposal such as revisions recognizing that joint memberships may have more than two members.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 2:

Summary: Current bylaw language suggests that a member is required to vote in director elections and required to vote for as many candidates as there are open seats. Such interpretation is inconsistent with a typical democratic cooperative election practice, past practice at the Cooperative and the likely intent of the bylaws. As such, the following amendment is proposed to confirm that members are not required to vote in director elections and, where members choose to vote, they may limit their vote to any number of candidates up to the number of open seats.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 3:

Summary: Several provisions of the bylaws are obsolete due to changes in law or modern practice. This proposed amendment 1) removes references to membership certificates which have been replaced by modern record-keeping, 2) removes a requirement that the Cooperative produce service area maps which can now be readily determined from a variety of sources, and 3) removes language requiring surety bonds for officers, which is no longer required by the Cooperative's insurer or otherwise necessary.

Board Report – March 2026

- Approved February disbursements totaling \$523,804. 8 new member applications, and February 2026 construction in the amount of \$15,509.
- Reviewed financial results for February with \$155,192 Operating Margins and \$158,775 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 10 outages in February, with an average YTD outage time per meter of 0.0341 hours.
- One application for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates was approved with total capital credits of \$9,501 to be paid out at the net present value of \$4,268.
- 39 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the March 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$21,228.
- Other topics covered included the audit report, capital credit allocations, remodeling updates, high power costs in February, donation requests, and annual meeting discussion.

STAY COOL THIS SUMMER without breaking the bank



Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take action.

7 cost effective tips to help lower energy consumption:

1. Request a home energy audit from your local utility to reduce energy loss.
2. Change your air filter regularly to help your HVAC system work efficiently.
3. Increase your thermostat by two degrees and set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
4. Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.
5. Run dryers, washers and dishwashers during off-peak hours in the early morning or late evening.
6. Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. Detergent, not hot water, cleans the clothes.
7. Reduce indoor heat by limiting cooking and the use of heat-producing appliances during the hottest parts of the day.