



Shane L. Larson,  
Chief Executive Officer

More Power to You

## PLENTY OF ACTIVITY PACKED INTO MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY



*“A nice get-together—like the old days when people in a community got together.”*

*“The guy flipping pancakes was a hoot. He made it fun!”*

*“Our kids love the event—very family friendly!”*

Comments like these from people who attended our Member Appreciation Day on Sept. 12 are music to our ears. Rock Energy Cooperative hosts this annual event so our employees and directors can show you—our members—how much we appreciate being your energy provider.

There’s something about a pancake breakfast on a crisp, fall morning that brings out the best in people. About 1,350 people of all ages visited the co-op’s Janesville warehouse for pancakes and popcorn, bucket truck rides and a bounce house, friendly smiles and fun for everyone. For a few hours that day people took a break from their everyday routine and focused on each other.

The atmosphere was electrifying (pardon the pun) as I walked around performing sanitation engineering and chatting with members. Kids ran up to greet CFL Charlie and LED Lucy. Chefs flipped pancakes right on to members’ plates. Members spun the prize wheel. Nurses performed health screenings. Longtime friends shot the breeze. Jugglers juggled, and popcorn popped. And that was just inside the warehouse.

Outside, bucket trucks lifted members high into the sky. Kids jumped around in the bounce house. Vehicles filled with old electronics lined up in the recycling area. Plenty of activity was packed into those 2½ hours.

If you don’t mind heights, the bucket trucks were the place to be. Lilly Gosda, 95, and Ruthetta Kovar, 86, had a great time getting a bird’s-eye view of Janesville. We don’t keep track of such things, but they might just be the oldest members to ever go up in one of our buckets. The lovely women live at Huntington Place, a senior living community in Janesville. Because many

of the residents there don’t drive, a van brings them to our events and we are always happy to see them.

You might have noticed a few changes at this year’s event. The chefs from Chris Cakes brought along another grill so more pancakes could be made even faster than usual. We also moved the prize and information tables to the back of the warehouse to avoid congestion

with the food line. One member responding to a survey after the event remarked: “Seems to get better every year. You must read our responses to your questions.”

We absolutely do, and that’s why you’ll notice more changes next year. Next year our chair rental company has committed to using newer chairs to

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Left: CFL Charlie flips a pancake to LED Lucy. Below: Lineman Brent LaBuy takes Lilly Gosda, right, and Ruthetta Kovar for a bucket truck ride.



MY CO-OP



# ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

**For many Illinois households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family's budget. In some cases, families will be forced to make painful decisions about which bills to pay and which necessities to cut.**

The federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services. Fortunately, Rock Energy Cooperative works with LIHEAP, which benefits about 300,000 Illinois households each year.



## LIHEAP Details

LIHEAP heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season that is intended to help pay a portion of a household's heat and electric costs. The benefit amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs. In most cases, the benefit is applied as a credit directly to the household's Rock Energy account. You do not need to duplicate your efforts by applying for assistance with both your local agency and Rock Energy.

You are eligible for heating assistance if your household's combined income is at or below the levels shown on this chart:

### Illinois LIHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2015–2016 Heating Season

Household Size	30-Day Household Income	Annual Household Income
1	\$1,471	\$17,655
2	\$1,991	\$23,895
3	\$2,511	\$30,135
4	\$3,031	\$36,375
5	\$3,551	\$42,615
6	\$4,071	\$48,855
7	\$4,591	\$55,095
8	\$5,111	\$61,335

## When and Where to Apply

To apply for assistance, you'll need to complete a Home Energy Plus application and provide information on each household member and their income as well as records of your heating costs. Senior citizens and people with disabilities can apply beginning Oct. 1. Households with children younger than 6 and disconnected households can apply beginning Nov. 2. All other eligible households can apply beginning Dec. 1.

For more information and application details, please call your local office:

- Winnebago County (South Beloit, Rockton, and Roscoe residents only): (815) 389-0914 or (815) 624-7788, Rockton Township, 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton.
- Boone County: (815) 544-3144, United Way of Boone County, 220 W. Locust St., Belvidere.
- Stephenson County: (815) 232-3141 or (800) 883-1111, Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency, 103-109 N. Chicago Ave., Freeport.
- McHenry County: (815) 338-7752, McHenry County Housing Authority, 1108 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock.

## Weatherization services

When you apply for energy assistance, the local agency also will see if you qualify for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps fund energy efficiency home improvement projects. If you are eligible for weatherization services, an energy auditor will look at your home to see what can be done to make it more energy efficient. Weatherization services differ with each home, depending on how it was built and its condition.

For general information, call toll-free (877) 411-9276 or visit [www.illinoisliheap.com](http://www.illinoisliheap.com).



## MORE POWER TO YOU

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avoid any potential issues. Popcorn has always been a member favorite so we doubled our popping capacity. Unfortunately, we had a “supply” issue that limited our ability to serve popcorn during the entire event. I can assure you that the communication issues with our popcorn provider have been worked out, so next year,

“popcorn for everyone!”

Electronics recycling and document shredding continue to be very popular. Members dropped off 11.2 tons of electronics, a 15 percent increase over the amount

collected last year. Most of that—8.8 tons—was in the form of TVs. Since we started the program in 2012, our members have recycled 35.8 tons of electronics and 9.5 tons of paper, keeping those items out of our community landfills.

With all those vehicles dropping off all that stuff, the parking lot behind our warehouse was jam-packed. This year we created a lane along the perimeter of the parking

**Members dropped off 11.2 tons of electronics, a 15 percent increase over the amount collected last year.**

lot for vehicles with items to recycle. That helped keep the line moving but decreased the amount of space available for parking. Next year we will have another employee working in the parking area to designate exactly where members should park to maximize the space in the lot and alleviate traffic jams.

While our annual Member Appreciation Day isn't like dealing with EPA's 111(d), it's still very important to many of our members, our board, and our employees, so thanks for

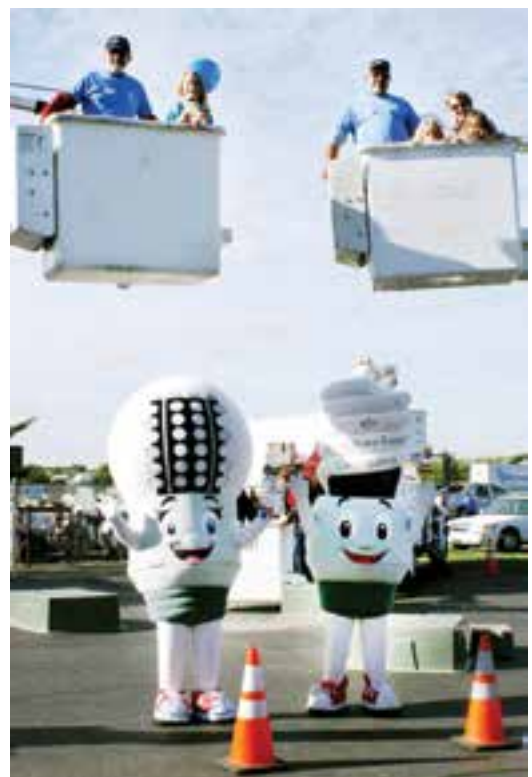
indulging me in this month's column.

On behalf of all the employees and directors, I want to thank everyone who attended Member Appreciation Day.

Special thanks go to

the members who enrolled in Project Lift Up, our voluntary member donation program designed to help low-income members pay their energy bills.

If you weren't able to come this year, we hope you'll consider joining us next fall. It truly is a privilege to serve your energy needs. If we can do anything to improve our service, please don't hesitate to give us a call or stop by one of our offices.



Above left: A steady line of vehicles brings a total of 11.2 tons of electronics and 2.5 tons of paper to be recycled. Above: LED Lucy and CFL Charlie ham it up for the camera. Left: Chefs serve pancakes hot off the grill.

MY CO-OP

## DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS OPEN

The Rock Energy Cooperative Nominating Committee will be selecting candidates to run for board of director positions that will be up for election at the March 28, 2016, annual meeting. Districts up for election are:

- District 2: Lima and Milton townships in Wisconsin
- District 4: city of Janesville, Harmony, and LaPrairie townships in Wisconsin
- District 9: Center, Janesville, and Magnolia townships in Wisconsin

Active members who are interested in running for a position on the REC Board of Directors must permanently reside in one of the areas up for election and meet all other qualifications. Please contact REC headquarters at (608) 752-4550 or (866) 752-4550 or send an e-mail to [questions@rock.coop](mailto:questions@rock.coop) by Dec. 1.

## SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$500 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our independent scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$87,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

An application form must be completed by the student as well as by the student's guidance counselor. Applications are available at area high schools, at our Janesville and South Beloit offices, and online at [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop). Just click on Your Benefits and scroll down to Scholarship Programs.

The deadline for returning completed applications is Jan. 11. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Uebelacker at (866) 752-4550 or [barbu@rock.coop](mailto:barbu@rock.coop).

In addition, scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op. Applications must be completed online at [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop). Just click on Your Benefits and scroll down to Scholarship Programs. The deadline is Dec. 31.

### Get Connected

Check out these great deals offered with your Co-op Connections Card.



Cats Meeooww Nail Spa, 16 S. Main St., Janesville – (608) 289-5319  
Specializing in nails and feet. Nice, relaxing environment.  
**\$5 Off Spa Pedicure**



Medithin Weight Loss Clinics,  
2605 Kennedy Road, Janesville –  
(608) 531-0400 –



[www.medithinweightlossclinics.com](http://www.medithinweightlossclinics.com)  
Medithin Weight Loss Clinics offer a physician-supervised weight loss program that is safe, proven effective, and affordable. Clients are assessed and progress is monitored by a physician and nursing staff to ensure optimum care and support in reaching weight-loss goals.  
**\$50 Off Initial New Patient Visit**

For a complete listing of current deals, visit [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop) and click on the Co-op Connections Card. You also can use the card for discounts on prescriptions as well as dental, vision, hearing, chiropractic, lab, and imaging services. To locate providers, call (800) 800-7616.

## HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call (608) 752-4550 or toll-free (866) 752-4550.



### Shane Larson, CEO

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### Barbara Uebelacker, Editor

