



Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

More Power to You

LONGTIME DIRECTOR NELSON HAD ROCK CO-OP IN HIS DNA

The lights at Rock Energy Cooperative shined a little less bright on Sept. 19, the day longtime director Morris Nelson passed away.

Morris served on the board for 19 years, but his association with the cooperative started decades before he ever became a director. His father, Wayne, had been a Rock director from 1962 to 1997. Morris had the cooperative in his DNA; he understood the importance of the co-op to the rural community, his rural community. Now, for the first time in 54 years, your

Morris truly believed in the cooperative business model and understood the ever-changing utility world.

co-op's board of directors is without a member of the Nelson farm family.

Morris also followed in his father's footsteps in the family business, operating a dairy and crop farm near Edgerton.

"He gave a life's worth of honest sweat and pride to dairy farming," his obituary read. "He selflessly spent decades to ensure the Nelson farming

tradition would endure into another generation."

A dairy farmer his entire life, Morris masterfully brought a terrific business acumen to the board room. With Morris' extensive legislative experience with the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, his insight into the political process was very valuable for the cooperative.

Morris also truly believed in the cooperative business model and understood the ever-changing utility world.

"The great part of the co-op world is that when we have had a successful year, all the extra profit is returned to us—the members—through capital credits," he wrote when seeking re-election in 2015.

There will be much to miss with Morris' absence, but most of all, I will miss him stopping by my office prior to the start of each board meeting for a quick chat about current issues and to make sure that the cooperative was running smoothly.

He cared deeply about the cooperative; how could he not, it was in his DNA. My most sincere condolences to the Nelson family, especially to his children, Elise and Ryan.

On another topic, I want to thank all the co-op members and their guests for attending our Member Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 17. Chris Cakes again did a great job of preparing breakfast for more than 1,300 people. We also served popcorn, ice cream, and our special 80th anniversary cake. It's not every day that the breakfast



menu includes those three treats.

The popularity of electronics recycling at the event continues to grow. Members dropped off 14.9 tons, a 33 percent increase over last year. That makes a grand total of more than 50 tons since we started the program back in 2012.

Rock Energy sponsors Member Appreciation Day every fall so our employees and directors can show you how grateful we are to be your energy provider. Judging from all the smiling faces in the photos on page 16c, it looks like a fun time was had by all. If you've never attended a co-op event, be sure to watch for details about next year's celebration. We don't want you to miss the fun! In the meantime, if there's anything we can do to improve our service to you, please let us know.



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 2016–2017 Heating Season

Household Size	30-Day Household Income	Annual Household Income
1	\$1,485	\$17,820
2	\$2,003	\$24,030
3	\$2,520	\$30,240
4	\$3,038	\$36,450
5	\$3,555	\$42,660
6	\$4,073	\$48,870
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, 27 S. State 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.



Member Appreciation Day Brings Lots of Smiles

More than 1,300 people attended Rock Energy Cooperative's Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, Sept. 17, and smiles could be found everywhere. 1. The Oregon Juggling Club showed off their talent and let kids try out some balancing tricks. 2. Co-op workers used lots of muscle to help members unload 14.9 tons of electronics for recycling. 3. Bucket truck rides are always a popular feature. 4 & 5. New this year was the Picture Place, where members of all ages could pose with energy-themed props. CFL Charlie and LED Lucy even stopped by for a photo. 6. Most kids love pancakes, and this one didn't take time to cut them. 7. Members were treated to cake in celebration of the co-op's 80th anniversary.



MY CO-OP





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 \$92,000 in financial aid to

deserving students.

Instead of using paper forms as in past years, Rock Energy now is accepting online applications. Just visit www.rock.coop, click on Your Benefits, and scroll down to Scholarship Programs.

The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 11. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Uebelacker at 866-752-4550 or 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. Just click on Your Benefits and scroll down to Scholarship Programs. The deadline is Dec. 31.



Have a Safe, Happy Thanksgiving!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28.



DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS OPEN; SPECIAL VOTE SET TO FILL VACANCY

Rock Energy Cooperative members will elect four directors at the co-op's March 27, 2017, annual meeting.

In addition to choosing directors for the three-year terms in Districts 6, 7, and 8 that expire in 2017, members will vote in a special election to fill the vacancy in District 1 created by the death of Morris Nelson. The District 1 term is for one year and will expire in 2018. The other three terms will expire in 2020.

The co-op's nominating committee will select candidates to run for the four positions. Active members who are interested in running for the board must permanently reside in one of the areas up for election and meet all other qualifications. The districts are:

- District 1: Fulton, Porter, Albion, and Dunkirk townships in Wisconsin. One-year term expires in 2017.
- District 6: Rock and Beloit townships in Wisconsin; Rockton Township in Illinois. Three-year term expires in 2020.
- District 7: Newark and Plymouth townships in Wisconsin. Three-year term expires in 2020.
- District 8: Avon, Spring Valley, and Spring Grove townships in Wisconsin; Durand, Laona, Shirland, Rock Grove, and Rock Run townships in Illinois. Three-year term expires in 2020.

Members who are interested in being considered by the nominating committee should call co-op headquarters at 866-752-4550 or send an e-mail to questions@rock.coop by Dec. 1.

Get Connected

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



Shear Magic, 2545 Milton Ave., Janesville – 608-754-5917 –

www.shearmagicjanesville.com

Full-service family hair and nail salon.

Free Eyebrow Wax (with any service); \$5 Off Perm; \$5 Off Color/Cut Combo; \$5 Off Highlight

Reich Chiropractic Clinic, 1831 Blackhawk Blvd., South Beloit –

815-389-1492 – www.reichchiropracticclinic.com

Eliminating Pain, Improving Wellness, Changing Lives. Complete family health care specializing in chronic and difficult cases. Free health care talks on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Special kids program every third Saturday. Wide variety of nutritional supplements and Biofreeze pain-relieving gel available. We're passionate about wellness—your wellness—on a structural, nutritional, and emotional level, so once you're out of pain—whether it's back pain, neck pain, headaches, extremity pain, or other problems—we'll teach you how to stay that way.

Free Consultation and Chiropractic Evaluation Examination

For a complete listing of current deals, visit 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.

Shane Larson, CEO

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Barbara Uebelacker, Editor



ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Empowering Members Since 1936