



More Power to You

Thanks, Stan!

Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

I have a dear friend who never says goodbye; he believes goodbye is permanent, so he says “see you later.”

After 40 years, board member Stan Dybevik is hanging up his director’s hat. Rock Energy Cooperative has benefitted immensely during Stan’s 40 years of service to the co-op. His loyalty, dedication, and enthusiasm will be deeply missed.

Working with Stan during my 10-plus years here has been a tremendous experience. He is one of the most committed board members I have ever encountered, and I admire his ability to look into the future to see what’s best for the co-op.

For example, Stan was chairman in 2007 during the co-op’s acquisition of territory in Illinois from Alliant Energy. The purchase was a huge step, and Stan took the lead from a board standpoint, organizing directors and getting them committed about the project.

Through the years, Stan has always been open to changes that would benefit the membership. He supported the move to automated meter reading because he knew it was a good business decision for the co-op. He favored annual co-op events like Member Appreciation Day and the night at the Beloit Snappers game because he saw them as opportunities to bring members together for fun activities.

As chairman for 14 years, Stan conducted meetings judiciously and professionally and was skilled at dealing with difficult issues. He was a real leader and diplomat when it came to ensuring that all voices in the boardroom were heard and every aspect of an issue was thoroughly considered before the board would make a final decision.

Stan also was a stickler for details, catching any spelling errors or typos in meeting minutes before they were approved. He always kept the board secretary on his toes.

Above all, Stan is a devoted believer in the cooperative business model, following in his father’s footsteps. (See story on page 16b.) He has his father’s determination to see that the Rural Electrification Administration, which was started through legislation, does not die in

legislation, as some have predicted.

He enjoys politics and over the years has spent a tremendous amount of time keeping informed about legislation that affects energy cooperatives on both the state and national levels. He has made many trips to Madison and Washington, D.C., to participate in legislative functions to support cooperative issues. In Washington, he often would mention that he was awestruck to be in the nation’s capital—the center of power.

Stan’s loyalty, dedication, and commitment have made him an outstanding board member for 40 years. He believes in the cooperative way of doing business and is truly devoted to the seven cooperative principles. His history with the cooperative has been invaluable as he helped new directors and new managers, like I was a decade ago.

As a director, Stan cared about each and every member, and he cares very deeply about this co-op. He’s a tremendous man of character and one that is going to be greatly missed.

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Stan Dybevik, right, and Shane Larson enjoy the Snappers game during the 2010 Rock Energy Night at the Ballpark.



Co-op Founder's Son Retires After 40 Years as Director

Stan Dybevik inherited his dedication to the rural electrification movement and his role as a political junkie from his father, J. B. Dybevik, one of the founders of Rock County Electric Cooperative Association.

Stan was about 6 years old when his father started talking about getting electricity to their house in Spring Valley Township, northwest of Orfordville.

"My dad went out and started organizing and contacting neighbors to see if they could get an electric cooperative going, which of course meant nothing to me," Stan, now 82, recalls. "He just told me we were going to get lights."

Stan remembers the excitement when the lights first came on and his father's dream of electrifying the countryside became a reality.

Stan attended his last board meeting as director on Feb. 23, ending 40 years of service.

Stan and his wife, Liz, live in the house that served as Stan's childhood home. "In fact, I still sleep in the same bedroom where I was born," he says.

The Dybevics will continue to be members of Rock Energy Cooperative, but Stan has retired from the board of directors after 40 years of service, including 14 years as chairman, 16 years as secretary, and several years as treasurer.

When asked to join the board in 1971, Stan was pleased to follow in the footsteps of his father, who served as director for 25 years, from 1936 to 1961. In the co-op's 75-year history, there have been only 10 years, from 1961 to 1971, when a Dybevik was not on the board.

Stan is tremendously proud that his father was one of the co-op's founders.

"I think one of the greatest things that have happened in this country is rural electrification," he said. "It's been just a wonderful thing to light up the skies at night

in the rural areas. I often wonder what my dad would think if he were alive today to see the changes that have occurred over the years."

Having served on the board for 40 years, Stan was instrumental in many of those changes. The biggest was on Feb. 6, 2007, when RCECA bought the territory and facilities of South Beloit Water, Gas, and Electric from Alliant Energy. The acquisition resulted in the co-op adding 18,000 residential and commercial electric and natural gas accounts in northern Illinois, nearly tripling the membership roster. Stan, who was chairman at the time, calls the two-year run-up to the acquisition "the most exciting and interesting period since the co-op's inception in 1936."

When Stan attended his first board meeting on Jan. 29, 1971, he never expected to remain on the board for 40 years. Stan says there isn't anything magical about the number 40. When he ran for re-election three years ago, he just decided that this term would be his last.

This is actually Stan's second retirement. In 1996, he retired from the U.S. Postal Service after working as a rural mail carrier for 28 years. That retirement allowed Stan to spend even more time on co-op business and get more involved in the state and national organizations. He was elected to a three-year term on the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association Board in 2006. During his term, he served as vice chairman for one year and was a member of the WECA legislative committee and the Federated Youth Foundation Board, which oversees the money used for scholarship and community projects.

Stan's second retirement will allow him and his wife to do more traveling and spend more time with their six grandchildren, who range in age from 2½ to 22. He also plans to continue gardening and doing projects around the house.

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*Cassie Danielson
Parkview High School*



*Tyler Hubb
South Beloit High School*



*Victoria Kemp
Clinton High School*



*Shannon Klein
Brodhead High School*



*Mary Liles
Hononegah High School*

Congratulations to Scholarship Winners

Rock Energy Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2011 scholarship winners. Each student will receive \$400 to assist with educational expenses at an accredited college or technical school. The co-op awards 10 scholarships each year to graduating seniors living in REC's service territory. Funds for the scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. ■



*Kaitlyn Maratik
Edgerton High School*



*Lauren Metcalf
Milton High School*



*Taylore Ransom
Delavan-Darien High School*



*Monica Schwartz
Beloit Turner High School*



*Rebecca Wiepz
Stoughton High School*

Dybevik Retires

(Continued from page 16b)

At the Feb. 23 board meeting, directors reminisced while watching a slide show of Stan's years on the board.

"I've been very, very happy and proud to have been a part of the cooperative," he says. "It's been a terrific experience. It's just a wonderful, wonderful thing."

But Stan says his retirement is bittersweet because he will miss the people he has worked so closely with for the past four decades. He has always said that the best part about being a director is "just being part of a great national movement and the co-op family, serving with so many great directors and employees."

And his co-op family certainly will miss him. Perhaps Marian Trescher, longtime friend of the Dybevics and current co-op treasurer, says it best: "Stan has done a wonderful job and has given so much to the cooperative. We can't replace that, and we sure are going to miss him. He's been wonderful for the co-op, and his wife, Liz, has been a great support person." ■

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Stan and his wife, Liz, are two of the most wonderful people I've had an opportunity to get to know. They truly represent the values and ideals of our cooperative. While Stan won't be sitting in the boardroom on a monthly basis, I'm sure that he and Liz will make their presence known at upcoming annual meetings and other events like Member Appreciation Day.

Stan, please accept a huge thanks for your 40 years of service and total dedication to the co-op, and I know that I will see you later. ■

Happy Easter!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday. Even though our offices are closed, 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.



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