



Make Veterans Day about veterans

Droves of people stand along Main Street with flags waving to the beat of the marching band. They impatiently crane their necks to catch the first glimpse of camouflage uniforms. Suddenly, they see them – weary, yet elated, men and women marching in formation. The sound of cheers, whistles and clapping is deafening. Their mothers, brothers, fathers, sisters and cousins are home from deployment.

This year on Veterans Day, think about the people who have protected this country's virtue. Your freedom has been their sacrifice.

Brought to you by your local Touchstone Energy® cooperative.



Rock Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



More Power to You

PICTURE-PERFECT DAY DELIVERS LOTS OF SMILES

Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive
Officer

Bright blue skies, sunshine galore, and plenty of smiles highlighted Rock Energy's Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, Sept. 14.

About 750 people visited our Janesville warehouse that morning to enjoy the camaraderie of being a member of our Rock Energy family. Your co-op's employees and directors sponsor the annual event to express our sincere gratitude to all our great members.

Many who responded to a survey about the event were impressed. "I have never had anything of this sort offered to my family from any other utility of which I was a customer in the past," one wrote. Another responded, "Everyone is friendly and seems concerned about making sure that everyone is having a good time."

We do hope that everyone who attended had a great time. The event is a family reunion of sorts. Just like many families gather every year to reconnect with each other, Member Appreciation Day is a time for neighbors to chat over a cup of coffee and a plate of pancakes and sausage. Parents and grandparents can bring the kids and watch them have fun playing in the bounce house, learning to juggle, or being captivated as ordinary balloons are transformed into amazing creations.

"We just want to thank Rock Energy for sponsoring such an enjoyable family event," one member wrote. "You take care of your customers in so many ways. Not only do you maintain our power grid and keep us going through storms, but you sponsor Member Appreciation Day, Snappers Day, and other events."

Another member wrote, "The activities are great—by far the best part of the event! We love that you are always

adding something new and fresh."

This year, we added a caricature artist as something new for adults. Some members have mentioned in recent years that the morning is geared mostly for kids. While there are plenty of activities to keep the kids busy, we hope that adults also benefit from the health fair, informational tables, and prize wheel.

Across town at Universal Recycling Technologies, we sponsored our annual electronics recycling and document shredding event. We moved these services to a different site three years ago to improve traffic flow and provide a safer environment for everyone.

Members brought more than 20 tons of electronics and almost 3 tons of documents. Since the program started in 2012, more than 109 tons of electronics and 22 tons of paper have been recycled

and kept out of our landfills. Thanks to members of Janesville Craig High School's baseball and softball teams for doing the heavy lifting by helping members unload their vehicles.

On behalf of all the employees and directors, I want to thank everyone who attended Member Appreciation Day. If you couldn't come this year, we hope you'll consider joining us next fall.

We will be celebrating our 20th annual Member Appreciation Day in the year 2020, which gives us a year to plan something special for you.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be your energy provider. We think of each and every one of you as more than a customer. You are a *member* of our Rock Energy Cooperative family. Please let us know if we can do anything to improve our service to you.

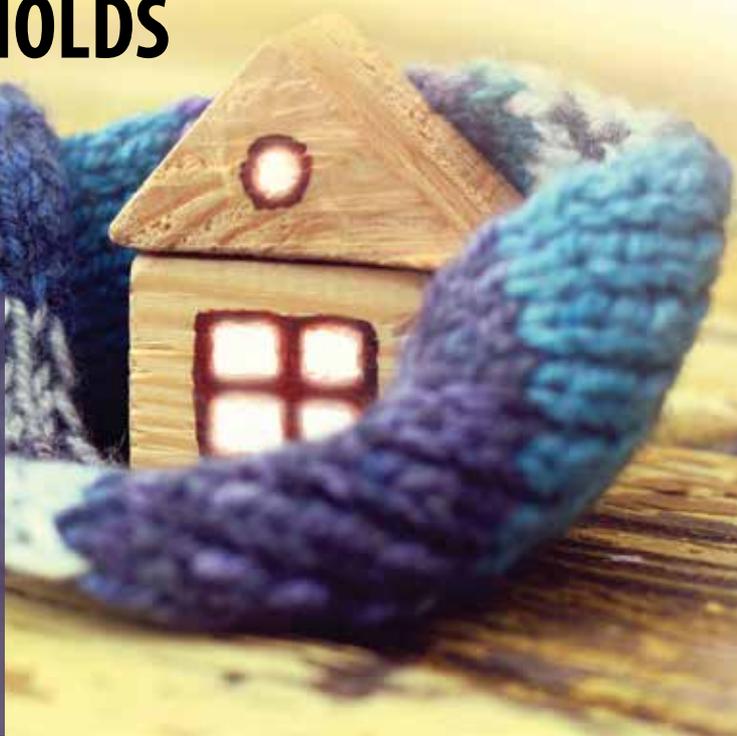


These are just some of the smiles our cameras captured at this year's Member Appreciation Day. More photos are on page 20C.

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 2019–2020 Heating Season

Household Size	30-Day Household Income	Annual Household Income
1	\$1,561	\$18,735
2	\$2,114	\$25,365
3	\$2,666	\$31,995
4	\$3,219	\$38,625
5	\$3,771	\$45,255
6	\$4,324	\$51,885
7	\$4,876	\$58,515
8	\$5,429	\$65,145

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.

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 2019!



Upper left: Bucket rides are always popular with kids and adults. Upper right: This girl opens wide for a mouthful of pancakes. Right: Learning how to ride a unicycle isn't easy, but members of the Oregon Juggling Club are willing to help. Below right: An artist draws a caricature of a young member as a new feature this year. Below and left: Kids love the creations made by the balloon lady from Funny Faces Family Entertainment.



Members appreciate the electronics recycling and document shredding offered every year. Members of Janesville Craig High School's baseball and softball teams helped members unload the heavy items.

See more photos at <https://rockenergy.smugmug.com/2019-Member-Appreciation-Day>.

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 members of the co-op are eligible to apply.

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 \$107,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

Online applications are available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 10. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Uebelacker, communications director, 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 go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline is Dec. 31.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install—you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

—Source: energy.gov



DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS OPEN

The Rock Energy Cooperative Nominating Committee will be selecting candidates to run for board of director positions that will be on the ballot at the March 30, 2020, annual meeting. Districts up for election are:

- District 6: Beloit and Rock townships in Wisconsin and Rockton Township in Illinois.
- District 7: Newark and Plymouth townships in Wisconsin.
- District 8: Avon, Spring Grove, and Spring Valley townships in Wisconsin and Durand, Laona, Rock Grove, Rock Run, and Shirland townships in Illinois.

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. For more information, please contact the co-op at 866-752-4550 or send an email to questions@rock.coop by Nov. 29.



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 2. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the new payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. 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 866-752-4550.

Shane Larson, CEO

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Barbara Uebelacker, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
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Empowering Members Since 1936