

# ROCK ENERGY OPENS DOORS FOR WI SENATOR VISIT



Last month Rock Energy welcomed newly elected Wisconsin state Senator Julian Bradley (R-Franklin) at its Janesville, WI, office for an engaging and in-depth conversation about the issues facing electric cooperatives. Along with myself and Senator Bradley, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) President and CEO Steve Freese and Director of

Government Relations Rob Richard also attended.

All told, our meeting and discussions were very productive. Among other things, we discussed future energy reliability and affordability, distributed generation, electric vehicles, and broadband.

Bradley was elected to serve the 28th Senate District in November of 2020, and he is currently Chair of the Wisconsin Utilities, Technology and Telecommunications Committee. This is his first position as a state elected official. Bradley is a La Crosse native and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with degrees in political science and economics. He worked for CenturyLink before moving to the Milwaukee area for a job with Northwestern Mutual. The 28th District includes parts of Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, but as a state senator, Bradley will be helping to make

decisions that affect electric cooperatives statewide, including Rock Energy.

A utilities-related bill (Assembly Bill 27) was recently authored by Bradley, along with Representative Mike Kuglitsch, R–New Berlin, and signed into law earlier this year. Assembly Bill 27 was passed unanimously in both houses of the Legislature. It is the first bill authored by Senator Bradley signed into law. The 2021 Assembly Bill 27 makes various changes to statutes administered by the Public Service Commission.

Thank you for the visit Senator Bradley, we look forward to working together in the future! *(continued on page 20B)*



Senator Julian Bradley

WECA CEO Steve Freese

MY CO-OP



Left to right are Steve Freese, President & CEO of WECA; Sen. Julian Bradley; and Shane Larson, CEO of Rock Energy Cooperative.



Continued from page 20A

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING, DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Looking ahead a couple of months, we encourage our members to join us and vote during the director elections, which will be held at our 85th Annual Meeting on Monday, September 27, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI. Directors up for election this year are in Districts 1, 3 and 5.

This year's event will remain a business meeting only, expected to last around 30-45 minutes, like it was last year. No dinner served, nor scholarships presented. No guest speakers or kids' activities. Two people maximum per membership are allowed to attend (yourself and one other person) in order to allow for adequate social distancing. Every attendee should bring a mask with them to the event (masks may be required). We are hoping to add more activities back onto the Annual Meeting agenda in 2022.

Even though this year's meeting will be a "business only" event, by virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an opportunity to vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op, and it's exactly why we hope to see you at this year's Annual Meeting in September.



Pictured above, a Rock Energy member casts their ballot at the 2020 Annual Meeting at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI.

## ROCK ENERGY MEMBER AWARDED IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



**Finley Hamilton, IEC Memorial Scholarship Winner**

Rock Energy is very proud to announce that Hononegah High School senior and Rock Energy member Finley Hamilton is the recipient of the 2021 IEC Memorial Scholarship! Finley is also a recipient of the 2021 Rock Energy Scholarship.

Graduating this spring, Finley is currently looking a number of different colleges to attend this fall. In her Rock Energy Scholarship application, Finley said her career goal is as follows:

"As a teenager, some people may find it difficult to choose a career; however, I am very excited about the plans I have chosen for my future academic and career goals. I plan to

pursue a major in communications with a focus in digital media communications or public relations, along with a minor in environmental science. Upon completing my undergraduate degree, I plan on attending law school to specialize in corporate or environmental law. As a Communications major I hope to use the skills I learn to help my future career goals to attend law school and become an attorney."

The IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in January, 1994. It is designed to provide financial assistance to deserving students in the "electric cooperative family."

The "driving force" behind creation of the fund was Thomas H. Moore, long-time Executive Vice President and General Manager of the AIEC. Mr. Moore, who retired in January, 1994, strongly believed that a fund and scholarship program should be established to provide a means by which cooperatives and individuals could honor deceased members of the electric cooperative family through memorial gifts. The scholarship program prospered under the leadership of Earl W. Struck, who succeeded Mr. Moore and served as President/CEO of the AIEC from 1994 to his retirement in 2006. Mr. Struck passed away in August 2007.

Twelve scholarships were given out this year; each annual scholarship is worth \$2,000. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college within a year from the time the scholarship is issued.

# COOLING IT DOWN (EFFICIENTLY) IN THE SUMMER

Here you'll find strategies to help you save energy and keep costs down during the spring and summer when the weather is warm and you are trying to keep your home cool. Some of the tips below are free and can be used on a daily basis to increase your savings; others are simple and inexpensive actions you can take to keep energy affordable through the spring and summer.

## USE WINDOWS TO KEEP OUT HEAT

Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows during the day. Find out about window treatments and coverings that can improve energy efficiency.

## OPERATE THERMOSTAT MORE EFFICIENTLY

Set your thermostat at a temperature you find comfortable and that provides humidity control, if needed. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.

Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting when you return home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat allows you to do this automatically and without sacrificing comfort.



Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you first turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

## USE FANS / VENTILATION FOR COOLING

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.

When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).

Source: Energy.gov

## What should you do if you suspect a natural gas leak?

### If you smell an odor:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use a phone until you're safely away from the suspected leak. Then call Rock Energy Cooperative at 866-752-4550 or contact your gas provider.
- Do not light a match or turn on or off any switches, flashlights, garage door openers, or other appliances because an electric arc might ignite the gas.

NOTE: If you detect a natural gas leak in Rock Energy's service area, the safest and most reliable way to contact Rock Energy to report a gas leak situation is by calling our emergency phone number at 866-752-4550. When calling this number, please follow the prompts, as this number is fully monitored, 24 hours a day. Please do **NOT** contact/message Rock Energy through the SmartHub app, as it is not continually monitored.

### How can you recognize a leak?



#### BY SMELL

Gas providers add a chemical that makes natural gas smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected.



#### BY SIGHT

Unexplained dead grass, bubbling water, and blowing dirt near a meter or along the pipeline route are signs of a leak.



#### BY SOUND

An unusual hissing, roaring, or whistling sound along a natural gas line or coming from an appliance might signify a leak.





## Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed and REC personnel will be out on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.

# LOVE THE OUTDOORS? BE **SAFE** OUT THERE



**2/3**

of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor **recreational activities**.



Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating**. Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder**.



**Do not use generators in enclosed areas.** The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.



**Look up** for power lines while fishing or sailing.



**FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.**

**Going for a hike?**

If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**



**X**

**Tent camping?** Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.

 **Safe Electricity.org**

**Shane Larson, CEO**

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**Jonas Berberich, Editor**



**ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE**  
Empowering Members Since 1936

# FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



**1.** Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



**2.** Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



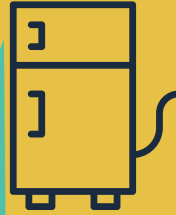
**3.** Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



**4.** Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



**5.** Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



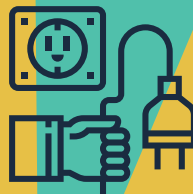
**6.** Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



**7.** Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



**8.** Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



**9.** Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



**10.** SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

 **Safe Electricity.org** Learn more at:

 **Rock Energy Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 