



A MESSAGE FROM:

Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936

Season's Greetings!

It's hard to believe that the end of 2022 is upon us and a new year is just around the corner. While many of us have faced challenges over the past few years, we also have much to be grateful for. I'm grateful for my own family, as well as my co-op family.

At Rock Energy we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our employees live in the same neighborhoods as our members, so we feel a strong connection to our community and to those who we serve.

Speaking of challenges, many of our community-focused programs and activities had to be canceled or changed over the past couple of years due to safety and health concerns.

With that said, we are excited to let you know that our Annual Meeting has been moved from a fall meeting back to a spring meeting (April 24, 2023) with an expanded agenda. We also plan to bring back our Member Appreciation Day in the fall of 2023 (more details to come soon). We look forward to resuming other programs and services as well in the near future.

One of the most important investments we continue to make is in our local youth. As we have for many years, Rock Energy will once again provide scholarships for local students. We will also provide opportunities for our younger members to attend youth leadership events in 2023, such as the Youth Leadership Congress. Additionally, each year through our Youth Tour program, we provide an opportunity to send a high school junior or senior to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

We would like to thank each of you for your continued support and patronage. Speaking on behalf of the entire team at Rock Energy, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity this holiday season! And, as always, if we can do anything to improve, please let us know.

*Happy Holidays
from
Rock Energy
Cooperative*

SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY THIS WINTER

Efforts to conserve at home can help to lower your energy bill. Below are 8 tips you can begin using TODAY to help you cut costs and improve heating efficiency.

#1 FURNACE FILTERS:

Replace your furnace filter every month to save energy and improve heat circulation. And if you haven't already, it's not too late to have a professional check and service your furnace system to ensure peak efficiency and safety.

#2 SUNLIGHT:

Use sunlight's natural heat to your best advantage. Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sunlight warm your home, and close them on gloomy days and at night to keep the heat inside.

#3 VENTS:

As long as there's a cold air return, you can close the vent and door for rooms you don't use. Experts say without a cold air return, closing off a room can build up pressures that cause the furnace to work harder.

#4 WEATHER STRIPPING:

Weather stripping is relatively easy and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows. Eliminate leaks and SAVE!

#5 WINDOWS:

If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.

#6 TIMERS:

Use electronic timers for lamps and appliances. Timers can be used to automatically turn appliances on and off. This is especially useful for those times of the day that you are out of the home.

#7 CAULKING:

Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.

#8 WATER HEATERS:

Invest in a water heater insulation blanket. If the top of the electric water heater is warm to the touch, you are wasting energy; this means that the heater has to work even harder to heat the water (using more energy).



REC OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas, and Friday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's holiday. 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 or natural gas incident, please call 866-752-4550.

2023 REC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of

\$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school.

Students who live on REC lines and whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our 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 \$152,000 in financial aid to deserving students. The on-line application is available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline for submitting applications is **Jan. 10, 2023**.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonas Berberich at 866-752-4550, or jonasb@rock.coop.





TRESCHER RECEIVES 2022 ACE AWARD

Rock Energy Cooperative Board Director and Secretary Marian Trescher, a lifelong public servant whose commitment to community has had an exceptional impact on the electric cooperative world and beyond, is the recipient of the 2022 Ally of Cooperative Electrification (ACE) award. She was nominated for the award by fellow board director Barb Miller.

Marian lives on her family farm in Milton Township. She currently serves as secretary of Rock Energy and is a member of the state education committee. She has received her Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Gold certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association after completing the required courses.

"Marian's experience and wisdom have been a blessing to me and all of us associated with Rock Energy. I honestly cannot think of any person who has embraced and promoted the cooperative business model more than Marian."

– Shane Larson, Rock Energy CEO

Trescher retired from teaching after spending 27 years in the Milton and Janesville school systems. Trescher's experience includes work with the Milton Town Board (Supervisor); Town of Milton Planning and Zoning Board (Chairman); Milton Joint Fire Commission; Milton Grange (Secretary); and the township as Chief Election Inspector. She has also been involved in many community groups throughout the years. In addition to her many hours of community service, Marian also enjoys spending time with her three children, and is an avid supporter of her ten grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

HOW IT BEGAN AT ROCK ENERGY

Trescher first became involved with Rock Energy through her husband, Howard. During his 43 years as a director, Marian was always by his side, handling schedules and taking notes at meetings. When Howard passed away in 2004, Marian was elected to fill his seat, a position she has held ever since. In 2011, she was elected board secretary. She has received many certifications and also served on the Federated Youth Foundation Board and WECA Education Committee.

In the 1960's, when Howard served on the board, Marian started and organized the "cooperative queen" program for the co-op. In the early 70's, Rock Energy's queen went on to win the cooperative queen title at both the state and national level as "Miss Rural Electrification." Marian served as her chaperone, traveling with her to speaking engagements and events across the country.

Congratulations Marian!

The ACE Award is the highest honor presented annually by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association. It recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding support and service to the industry on behalf of Wisconsin electric cooperatives and the members they serve.



Pictured above, Marian Trescher is honored for receiving the 2022 ACE Award at Rock Energy's Janesville office. Pictured, from left to right, Shane Larson, CEO, Marian Trescher, Board Director/Secretary, Barb Miller, Director, and Clark Schoonover, Board Director/Chairman.

Lancour Retiring After 15 Years As Rock Energy Controller



Rock Energy Controller Dave Lancour is getting ready to head into retirement after a 45-year career, the last 15 years of which were at Rock Energy.

Dave graduated from the University of Milwaukee in 1977 with an accounting degree and started his career at Harnischfeger Industries, (on a local note, Harnischfeger acquired Beloit Corporation in 1985). After many years of working for the large, publicly owned company, Dave was hired on at Rock Energy in 2007.

"I was always in corporate accounting at a large multi-national organization," said Dave. "The difference here at Rock Energy is that there's a lot less employees and you have the visibility of everything that's going on in the organization. Having spent my time before coming to Rock Energy with a publicly owned, profit-driven company, it was refreshing to come to an organization that is member-driven. Everything we do is to benefit of our members, as opposed to generating profit for stockholders."

MOVING INTO ILLINOIS

When Dave first started working at Rock Energy, the co-op had just acquired a new service area in Illinois, which he said was a significant move for Rock Energy.

"I started here at Rock Energy just after the acquisition of the Illinois territory from Alliant," said Dave. "There were many new things happening—we became a much larger co-op, we started working with natural gas, and we began operating in two states. With everything happening all at once, there was a lot of work that needed to be done in order to adapt to the changes."

THE CO-OP EXPERIENCE

Dave said he has always appreciated and enjoyed working in the co-op environment, while interacting with co-op employees and the co-op members. He especially remembers the Member Appreciation Day events and serving up those delicious co-op pancakes.

"Member Appreciation Day was always a nice way to get to know our members better—it was really enjoyable getting out and talking with so many people from the community," said Dave. "It was also such a great experience getting to know all of the different Rock Energy employees over the years. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to work with."

Thank you for 15 GREAT YEARS at Rock Energy Dave! GOOD LUCK in your well-deserved retirement!

Deck the Halls

SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

 Safe
Electricity.org

Shane Larson, CEO

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547
P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080
866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936

Pipelines Deliver Natural Gas Safely

Learn how to prevent damage, recognize potential problems

Rock Energy Cooperative operates about 180 miles of natural gas main in northern Illinois with more than 8,300 natural gas services.

Pipelines are the safest and most economical method of transporting natural gas, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. Federal pipeline safety code mandates that Rock Energy and other distribution systems comply with tough requirements for design, construction, testing, inspection, operation, and maintenance from the point of connection to the meter on your house. Natural gas is completely safe when used properly. The following information will help you and your families stay safe around natural gas.

How can I recognize a natural gas leak?

- **BY SMELL:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but gas providers add a chemical that makes it smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected. It is extremely important that you call us as soon as you smell the gas and not wait several hours or days before calling.
- **BY SOUND:** A hissing or roaring sound coming from a natural gas line might be a sign of a leak.
- **BY SIGHT:** If you see unexplained dead grass, natural gas might be leaking. Dirt or debris blowing in the air and water bubbling in a puddle, pond, or creek are other signs.

What should I do if I suspect a leak?

If you smell a faint gas odor:

- Make sure all gas appliances and burners on your stove are turned off completely.
- Open one or more windows and wait a few minutes for the gas odor to dissipate before investigating further.
- Check the pilot lights on your gas furnace, water heater, stove, and oven.
- Don't try to relight a gas appliance while you can still smell gas.
- If you need assistance relighting the pilot light, call a heating or plumbing contractor.

If you smell a strong odor:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use the telephone or cell phone until you reach a safe location away from the suspected leak. Then call Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 to report the location.
- Do not light a match or turn on or off any switches, flashlights, garage door openers, or other appliances as an electric arc might ignite the gas.

How can I prevent pipeline damage?

- Call 811 before you dig or excavate to avoid hitting a natural gas pipeline or other buried utility line. State law requires people to call at least two days before any digging project. Utilities then will send a representative to the site so all underground lines can be marked.
- Remember that Rock Energy maintains buried gas pipes up to your meter. All pipes beyond that are the member's responsibility and should be periodically inspected for corrosion and leaks.



If you have any questions about natural gas safety, we would be happy to provide you with further information. Just call us at 866-752-4550.

You also can visit:

www.rock.coop
www.call811.com
www.illinois1call.com

