



# USS Beloit Launched

## Beloit Native Honored as Ship Sponsor



The USS Beloit was officially christened on May 7 at the Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette. Ship sponsor, Beloit Native Major General Marcia M. Anderson (Ret.), christened the ship prior to its launch into the Menominee River. It is the first ship named in honor of the city of Beloit, WI . . .

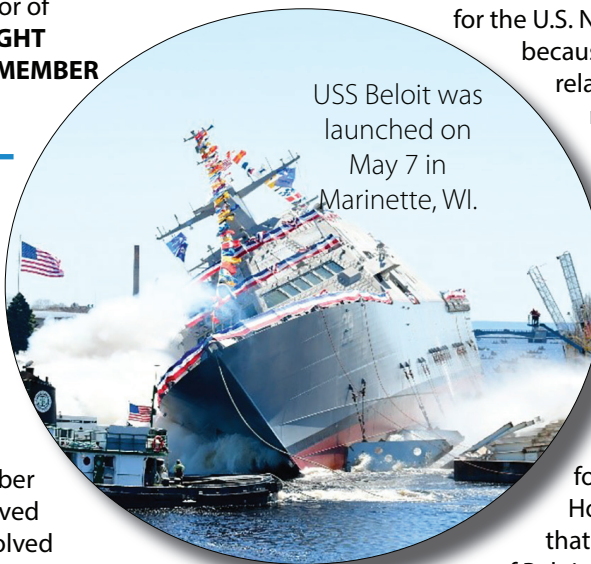
**LOCATED RIGHT  
IN THE HEART OF ROCK ENERGY'S MEMBER  
SERVICE AREA!**

In celebration of the USS Beloit launching, several local veteran organizations, fire and police departments honored veterans by taking part in a tribute corridor that strung out from Beloit to Marinette on May 7. Some of those who participated were involved with the nationally and locally recognized program Vets Roll. Rock Energy member Finnegan's RV Center is actively involved in Vets Roll and did its part to be involved in the May 7 tribute to the USS Beloit. Two buses loaded with decorated WWII Veterans and 'Rosie-the-Riveters' departed from Finnegan's heading north to the launch activities. Those veterans, along with other citizens from Beloit, made the three-and-a-half hour trip to Marinette to witness an event that will forever be a proud part of the history of Beloit.

"This is a long time coming for the people and veterans from Beloit," said WI Senator Tammy Baldwin. Fairbanks Morse Defense, a main defense contractor based in Beloit, has built engines for naval vessels for the U.S. Navy for nearly 100 years, and

because of this long-standing relationship with the Beloit manufacturer and the community of Beloit, it was decided to name the newest naval vessel after the community of Beloit.

USS Beloit was  
launched on  
May 7 in  
Marinette, WI.



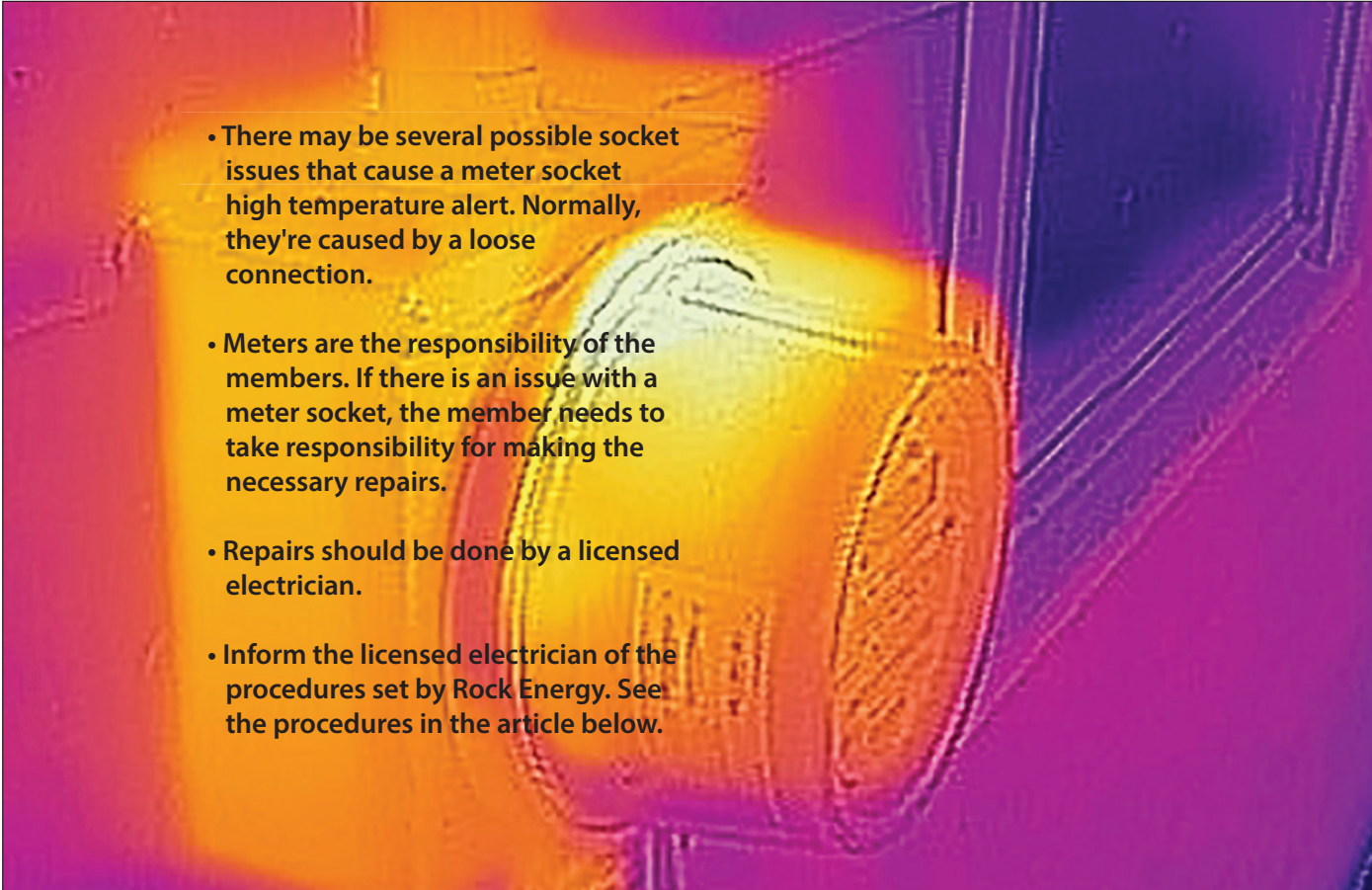
In 2011, Major General Marcia Anderson was named the first female African American officer to earn her second star in the U.S. Army reserves. When the former Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard Spencer, directed that LCS 29 be named after the city of Beloit, he also asked that General

Anderson be honored as the ship sponsor.

"I am honored and excited to be a part of the christening and launch of the USS Beloit," she said. "As a Beloit native, I am well aware of the long history my city has had in its support of our national security."

# Meter Socket High Temperature Alert

*Rock Energy Should be Contacted if a Hot Socket is Detected*



- There may be several possible socket issues that cause a meter socket high temperature alert. Normally, they're caused by a loose connection.

- Meters are the responsibility of the members. If there is an issue with a meter socket, the member needs to take responsibility for making the necessary repairs.

- Repairs should be done by a licensed electrician.

- Inform the licensed electrician of the procedures set by Rock Energy. See the procedures in the article below.

**R**ock Energy Cooperative would like to make sure that members know about the dangers of hot sockets, including what causes hot sockets and the kind of damage a hot socket can cause.

While there may be several possible socket issues that cause the automatic meter system high temperature alert, typically they are caused by a loose connection. As meter sockets are owned by and are the responsibility of the member, the member will need to have this issue repaired by a licensed electrician.

If a high temperature alert occurs, please address the issue as soon as possible. Please be aware that your service could possibly be disconnected if the problem isn't fixed in a timely matter. Inform the licensed electrician of the following procedures set by Rock Energy:

- Your licensed electrician must contact Rock Energy to schedule a time to deenergize your service. (Note: any unauthorized meter removal is automatically detected by the co-op and subject to tampering fees.)
- During normal business hours, Rock Energy will deenergize and reenergize the service at no charge. However, after hours services are subject to charges.

## What causes Hot Sockets?

- Loose connections.
- Spring loaded jaws that apply force to the terminals on the back of the meter become loose.
- Hot and the cold along with fluctuations in the load, causing the jaws to loosen and overheat.
- A hot socket can also be caused when there is slack between where the terminal is put together or attaches to the bus bar in the meter base.

## What kind of damage can a Hot Socket cause?

A hot socket is a very dangerous occurrence. One of the worst things it could cause is a house fire. A hot socket in a meter base can also lead to melted wire, or overheated terminals on the meter itself. This causes irreversible damage to the meter to the point that the meter has to be replaced.

*Please contact Rock Energy's offices if you have any questions on this matter. Otherwise, we will look forward to hearing from your electrician.*





## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING, DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

**R**ock Energy encourages members to join us and vote during the upcoming director elections, which will be held at our 86th Annual Meeting on Monday, September 19, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI.

Directors up for election this year are in Districts 2, 4 and 9.

- *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.*
- *Every attendee should bring a mask with them to the event (masks may be required).*

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.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water. Consider hanging clothes outside.

*See more energy saving tips on page 20D.*

## Natural Gas Costs On The Rise Again

### *Higher Electric Bills Expected This Summer*

#### **What is going on with natural gas prices?**

Natural gas prices have surged over 100% in 2022 and over 200% since January 2021. There are several factors contributing to the increase. Natural gas inventories (natural gas put into storage) are below past year averages—this factor drives supply concerns. More and more U.S. produced natural gas is being shipped to other countries at very high prices—this impacts supply. Environmental concerns are influencing the lending of capital to natural gas producers. Thus, producers have limited access of funds to explore new sources of natural gas—this too impacts supply. These are just a few factors contributing to the pricing pressures we are experiencing.

#### **What about utility bills?**

Natural gas is used in countless ways. Among those ways are heating homes and businesses; producing countless products; and generating electricity. So, the cost of natural gas touches nearly every aspect of our lives. With the large price increases in natural gas, members should be aware that these increases will impact our natural gas members, as well as our electric members. How much will energy bills go up? Because there are many components that go into an energy bill, it is impossible to predict how much the increases will impact a member's bill. However, based on how much natural gas has increased, prices will be going up.

#### **Reduce energy use if possible**

With the expected rise in energy costs, Rock Energy highly suggests members take steps to reduce their energy use. Weatherization and conservation are two areas that members can utilize to reduce energy consumption. See page 20D for energy saving tips.

*If you are having difficulty keeping up with your bill, please contact us at 866-752-4550; we can assist you in creating a payment arrangement and directing you to payment assistance services.*

# 10 TIPS to... **SAVE MONEY** & **ENERGY** this summer!

1. Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep cold air in and hot air out.
2. Open your windows at night to let cool air in, and then close them in the morning to trap it.
3. Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out on hot days.
4. Shade your home by installing awnings over windows in direct sunlight.
5. To force air down and create a cooling effect, operate ceiling fans in a counter-clockwise direction.
6. Ventilation, if done properly, is one of the most efficient ways to keep a building cool.
7. When using your AC, attic vents and fans can help reduce energy costs.
8. Set the thermostat as high as you comfortably can. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily cool your home when you are there and increase the temperature when you are not.
9. If you are looking for a new air conditioning unit, be sure to check out an Energy Star rated model.
10. If a new AC unit is out of the question, a routine annual inspection and regular maintenance can help. Turn off power to the air conditioner before you work on it. Clean or replace filters. Clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.

## REC OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 5. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend. Even though our offices are closed, crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage or natural gas leak, please call 866-752-4550.



### 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



# **"I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free!"**

On the Fourth of July, reach out and shake the hand of a veteran or an active servicemember. It's people like them who have spent the last 246 years protecting our rights and privileges as Americans.

**Happy Independence Day**  
*from Rock Energy Cooperative!*



**Rock Energy Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 