



YOUR BENEFIT FOR BEING A MEMBER...

CAPITAL CREDITS

Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to ensure your needs are always met, not for the benefit of third-party shareholders.

Rock Energy works hard every day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it's sure nice to know that when there are profits, in due course they are returned to the membership in the form of capital credits. Capital credits are one of the benefits of membership with a not-for-profit electric cooperative such as Rock Energy.

As a member you are allocated a proportional share of the cooperative's yearly margins, these are called "capital credits."

Because Rock Energy is a cooperative, it does not technically earn profits, in the traditional sense. As you pay your electric bill each month, Rock Energy uses that money to upgrade the system, run the co-op and repay indebtedness. Annually, any excess revenue after covering all of Rock Energy's operating expenses (also known as margin), are allocated to our members, based on their past year's usage. Capital credits remain as equity of the co-op until retirement is authorized by the board of directors.

DISTRIBUTIONS

This past year in capital credits, Rock Energy retired \$2.1 million. Since the co-op was founded 87 years ago, about \$26 million has been paid back to past and current members.

Your May statement shows your beginning capital credit balance, your 2022 allocation, your 2022 retirement credit, as well as your ending capital credit balance.

If you have any questions about capital credits and how the process works, please give us a call.

As always, we want to thank you for allowing us to be your energy provider. If we can do anything to improve our service, please let us know.

**How do
Capital
Credits
work?**



UNCLAIMED CREDITS

If a capital credit check is returned or not cashed, we publish your name in the unclaimed credits list at www.rock.coop/unclaimed. You can search the list of unclaimed credits and initiate a claim for any capital credits that may belong to you. You may send claims to Rock Energy Cooperative's headquarters at P.O. Box 1758, Janesville, WI 53547, or call 866-752-4550.

If the credits are not claimed by the end of the year, they will be forfeited and paid to the Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives' Federated Youth Foundation for educational purposes.



Pictured above, Rock Energy CEO Shane Larson addresses the audience at the co-op's 87th Annual Meeting. Seated is Clark Schoonover, Board Chairman (left), and attorney Niles Berman.

At left, Rock Energy members and guests gather before the start of the 87th Annual Meeting.

ROCK ENERGY HOLDS 87th ANNUAL MEETING

Rock Energy Cooperative held its 87th Annual Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI.

During the meeting, 2023 Rock Energy Director Elections were announced for districts 6, 7, and 8. Presiding over the elections was attorney Niles Berman.

Directors elected are as follows:

- **Clark Schoonover (Board Chairman) – re-elected in District 6**
- **Derik Roth (new board member) – elected in District 7**
- **Ronald Richards (Board Treasurer) – re-elected in District 8**

Calling the meeting to order and providing opening remarks at this year's meeting was Board Chairman Clark Schoonover, followed by a short address from Rock Energy CEO Shane Larson. Schoonover also provided the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, Treasurer's Report, and Chairman's Report.

During their speeches addressing the audience at this year's annual meeting both Larson and Schoonover discussed the various financial challenges both individuals and organizations, including the co-op, have faced over the last year.

"We've definitely had some headwinds, such as inflation," said Larson. "And cost increases due to supply chain issues have been substantial."

Larson also noted that there had also been a significant rise in natural gas prices for the majority of 2022, and that combined with rising inflation and other costs, led the board of directors to determine that a slight rate adjustment was necessary in 2023.



Pictured above are the 2023 Rock Energy Scholarship winners. Back Row (L to R): Katelyn Duber, Ella Eash, Maysa Johns, Samantha Hopkins, Alex Evans, Katie Jones, and Jadyn Stien. Front Row (L to R): Claire Esselman, Casey Knaack, Hailey Beeman, Jenna Kellogg, Trinity Czerwinski, Kera Riley, and Matt Wicklund (Not pictured: Isobel Hamilton).

Picture to the left, Rock Energy board member and secretary Marian Trescher looks on as scholarship winner Hailey Beeman addresses the audience.



Pictured above, Bill Dietsch is recognized for 24 honorable years of service on the Rock Energy Board of Directors. Bill recently retired from the board. Pictured (L to R): Bill Dietsch, Shane Larson, Clark Schoonover, and Janie Dietsch (Bill's wife).

"As a board, we take modifying rates very seriously," said Schoonover. "We know it impacts every member which includes our neighbors, family, and each director sitting around the board table."

Despite these numerous challenges, Larson said, the co-op continues to stand its ground financially.

"Financially, this co-op is very strong," said Larson. "We have strong equity. This past year in capital credits we retired \$2.1 million. Since 1936, we have retired \$26 million back to our members."

Also during this year's meeting, the 2023 Rock Energy scholarship winners were recognized. Education committee and board member/secretary Marian Trescher announced each scholarship winner, while scholarship certificates were presented to the winners by education committee and board members Barb Miller and Bill Fischer.

At the close of the meeting, retiring Rock Energy board member and former Vice Chairman Bill Dietsch was recognized for 24 years of service on the board. Bill and his wife Janie were presented with a commemorative/customized picture and flowers as part of the retirement recognition presentation. Many of Bill's family members were in attendance at the meeting. A director since 1999, Bill is also the former Board Chairman.

"We've had a lot of great times with Bill and Janie," said Larson. "I personally owe a great deal to Bill, because he has been a great friend and leader. You're going to be missed in the boardroom, but congratulations on your retirement, we truly appreciate everything you've done for us."

THINKING OF INCREASING YOUR ELECTRIC LOAD?

Contact Rock Energy First

Are you planning to purchase an electric vehicle? Build an addition onto your home? Maybe you're going to add a fan or two to cool livestock? Is your business buying new machinery that will use additional electricity? If so, please include Rock Energy in the planning process (contact us at 866-752-4550).

WHY SHOULD YOU CONTACT ROCK ENERGY?

Co-op facilities are designed to meet an individual member's initial load requirement at the time service is started. If that load is significantly increased, the capacity of the present system might not be sufficient to handle it. When that happens, the system becomes overloaded and there's a power outage. An overloaded system also can damage the co-op's transformers or your electrical equipment, which might lead to expensive repairs. Our equipment often can handle an overload for a while, but its life span will decrease significantly when the rated capacity is exceeded over an extended period of time. That means additional costs for the co-op and may result in the member paying for the damaged co-op equipment.



ROCK ENERGY IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU!

So, if you're planning to increase your electric load, please call our Operations Department. Our workers will gather the needed information and determine whether the capacity of the present equipment is adequate. In situations where a significant amount of new load will be added, we might need to install larger service equipment or make other changes. **Please make sure you notify us as far in advance as possible to ensure that the required service upgrade will be available when you need it.**



REC OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, 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, call 866-752-4550.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

- Saturday, Aug. 5
- 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

NEW LOCATION:

**Rock County Fairgrounds
(Craig Center)**

1301 Craig Ave. / Janesville, WI

Look for more details in upcoming issues of the co-op magazine and newsletter.

Shane Larson, CEO

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Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936