



TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

2022 ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS:

- **WHEN: SEPTEMBER 19, 2022** (date subject to change)
- **TIME: Begins at 6 p.m.**
- **WHERE: Eclipse Center - 1 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, WI.**
- In light of the ongoing issues related to the pandemic, this year's meeting will be a "business meeting" only.
- Only two people maximum per membership are allowed to attend (for proper social distancing).
- The meeting is expected to last around 30-45 minutes.
- Dinner will not be served; scholarships will not be presented; and no guest speakers or kids' activities.
- Every attendee should bring a mask with them to the meeting (masks may be required).

Director Elections Attending the annual meeting gives members — the most important part of our co-op family — a chance to participate in the governance of the cooperative. Members will be voting to elect board directors in districts 2, 4, and 9 at this year's annual meeting. Attending members can vote in all three districts, as all directors are elected at-large.

Additional information about this year's annual meeting will be released in upcoming issues of this magazine, as well as the REC Newsletter (sent with your billing), and email correspondence. *We hope to see you there!*

Pictured above is the REC Board of Directors at the 2021 Annual Meeting. BACK ROW (L to R): Shane Larson (CEO), Clark Schoonover (Chair), Wendell Boyer, Bill Fischer, Bill Dietsch (Vice Chair), Ron Richards, and Jim Quade (Treasurer). FRONT ROW (L to R): Marian Trescher (Secretary), Darrel Weber, Theresa Huber, and Barb Miller. Now retired, Darrel Weber was recognized at last year's meeting for 30 years of service on the board.

REC 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 2022 annual meeting, to be held September 19.

Districts up for election are **District 2** (Lima and Milton townships in Wisconsin); **District 4** (Harmony and LaPrairie townships and city of Janesville in Wisconsin); and **District 9** (Center, Janesville, and Magnolia townships in Wisconsin). 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.

Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2022. For more information, please contact the co-op at 866-752-4550, or send an e-mail to questions@rock.coop.

FASTEN

Q. What college did you attend after high school?

A. I attended Northern Illinois University after finishing high school. I graduated in May 2021.

Q. What degree did you graduate with?

A. I graduated with a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering.

Q. Are you currently working within your profession? What is your job now and where do you work?

A. After graduating from NIU, I accepted a full-time engineering position with Fastenal, one of the largest fastener distributors in North America. I work at one of their manufacturing subsidiaries, Holo-Krome, in Loves Park, IL. My main task is to design the tooling that is used to manufacture screws and bolts. It is incredibly rewarding to be able to put my education to use in a manufacturing setting.

Q. Did you land the type of job you were hoping to after graduating?

A. Near the end of my last semester at NIU, I was focused on finding a local engineering position that both challenged and excited me. Throughout my time in college, I had multiple opportunities to work on the manufacturing side of engineering. I enjoyed the fast-paced environment and being able to work in a team. These experiences, along with the desire to work close to home, drove me to apply for the manufacturing engineer position with Fastenal.

Q. Are there any higher-level positions within the profession you're in that you would eventually like to reach?

A. There are lots of opportunities in the engineering field. My current plan is to continue to gain experience and refine the skills that I have picked up thus far. I enjoy what I am doing now and am learning a ton. Within the next few years, I hope to go back to school for my master's degree. As of now, I am unsure as to what master's to pursue, but I am leaning towards business administration.

Q. Did you have an internship or job while in college that helped you to transition into the workforce?

A. In college, I had the opportunity to intern with Field Fastener, a local fastener distributor. I worked in their quality and engineering departments for nearly three years. The knowledge that I obtained through this internship, along with what I learned in the classroom, greatly prepared me for my current engineering position with Fastenal. I would not be in the position that I am in now without the opportunities that I had in college.

Q. Overall, how was your college experience? Do you feel that college prepared you to enter your chosen profession?

A. Overall, I would say I had a great college experience that more than prepared me for my current job. I enjoyed all my classes, made a few close friends, and gained valuable real-world experience through my internship. In college, I was able to build skills like critical thinking, communication, time management, etc.

Q. What do you feel is the most valuable thing you learned while you were in college?

A. I would say the most valuable thing I learned in college was how to work effectively under pressure. In engineering, especially on the manufacturing side, there are hard deadlines that need to be met. Being able to submit good, quality work in a short amount of time is crucial. College allowed me to build this skill in a variety of ways, such as turning in homework on time or studying for an exam. Overall, it was incredibly beneficial to be able to develop time management skills in lower risk situations.

Q. If were talking with a high school senior who was preparing to go to a four-year college, what advice would you give them?

A. The biggest piece of advice I would give new college students is to make connections early, both socially and professionally. This can be with classmates, professors, coworkers, or really anyone you come across. Having and maintaining different types of relationships can help you develop interpersonal and communication skills, and can also open different doors such as internships or jobs. Even the slightest advantage can make all the difference in the world, especially in an increasingly competitive job market. Therefore, the more connections you have, the better off you will be further down the line.

Q. Do you feel that with your chosen profession you are, in some way(s), helping the community?

A. Engineering is a field that provides tons of support to the community. Whether it be the construction of a new bridge or an advancement in medical technology, engineers work around the same cause: to build a more sustainable world. This is part of the reason why I pursued engineering. I wanted to be able to use my knowledge to help create something useful. In my current position with Fastenal, I am helping to create product that is shipped to companies in the aerospace, automotive, medical, and construction fields. These companies use our product to build their machines, tools, or whatever it might be, to improve the lives of our community.

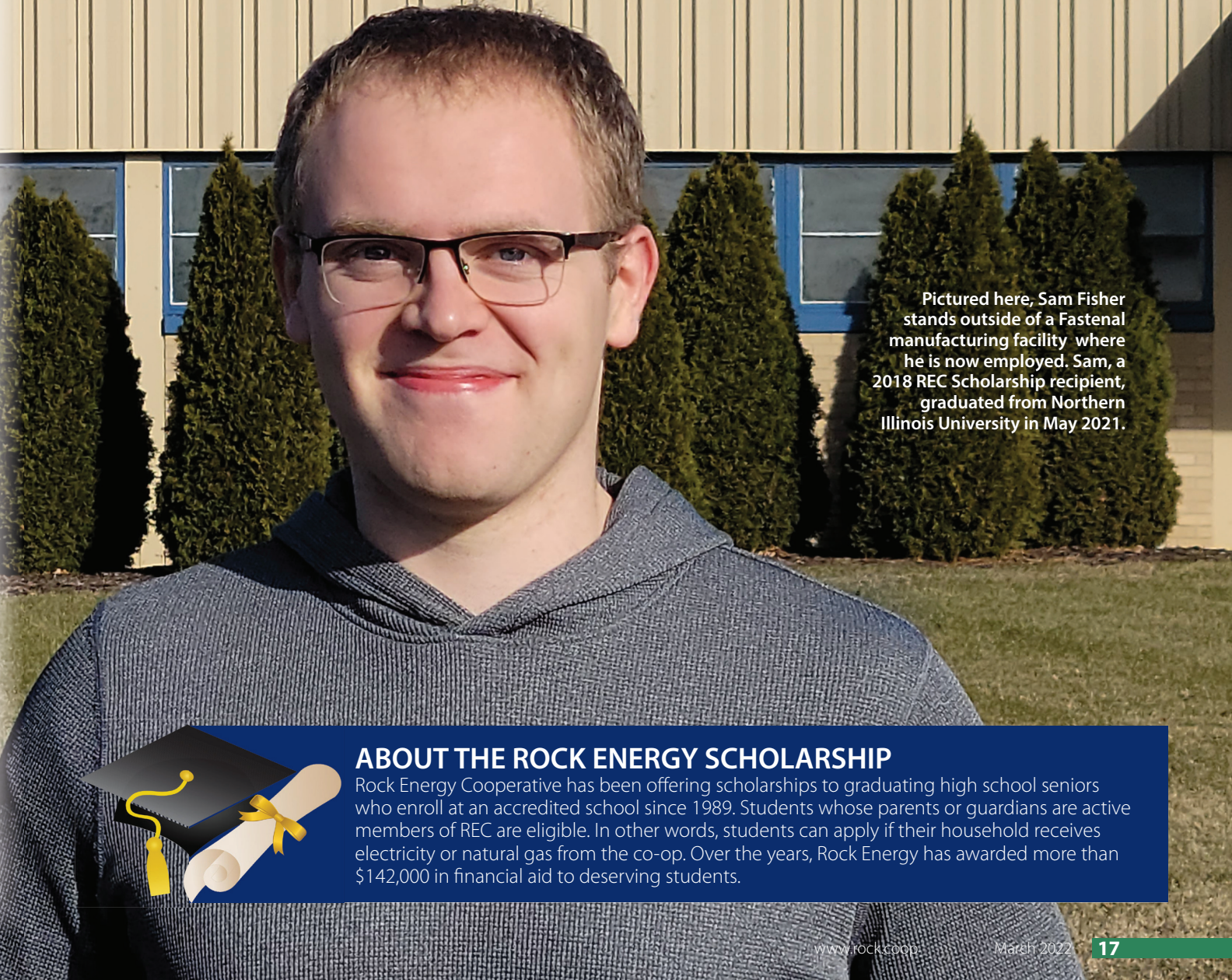


FORMER REC SCHOLARSHIP WINNER GARNERS SUCCESS AFTER COLLEGE

Q&A with SAM FISHER

2018 REC Scholarship Winner

- **HOMETOWN:** South Beloit, IL
- **GRADUATED FROM:** Northern Illinois University
- **CURRENT EMPLOYER:** Fastenal



Pictured here, Sam Fisher stands outside of a Fastenal manufacturing facility where he is now employed. Sam, a 2018 REC Scholarship recipient, graduated from Northern Illinois University in May 2021.



ABOUT THE ROCK ENERGY SCHOLARSHIP

Rock Energy Cooperative has been offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school since 1989. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible. In other words, students can apply if their household receives electricity or natural gas from the co-op. Over the years, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$142,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

WATCH OUT FOR IN-PERSON UTILITY SCAMS

Utility scammers go to great lengths to look the part for in-person scams. They may even be wearing clothing with the logo of your utility provider or holding official-looking documents. But if you are not expecting an in-person visit to your home from your provider, do not allow them to enter. Immediately contact your utility service to check if the person is authorized by the provider. In-person utility scammers tell a variety of stories to try to enter your home or property.

How do they scam? Here are a few ways:

- **Equipment readings/replacement.** The scammer may ask to come inside to “fix” a meter or gather a reading and tell you that there is a fee for this service. However, this is a scam because all repair work should be scheduled in advance with your provider and should not come as a surprise.
- **Home improvement offers.** Scammers may offer you free inspections or audits for your home, which may sound like a good deal. However, this is a scam because their “findings” often times result in your having to purchase an expensive and unnecessary item, or they may be exploring your home to plan for a future break-in.
- **Gas/water leaks.** Scammers may approach your home and claim there is a major leak in the area and they need to come in and check to see if it is affecting

your home. You should verify with your provider whether there is a leak. In emergency situations you may be contacted by your provider in advance of any employees appearing in the neighborhood.

Again, the scammers’ goal is often to steal your valuables immediately or gain information that will help them with future burglaries.

Call your utility before allowing any unscheduled entry. Scammers may ask for personal information, including social security numbers, credit card information, and answers to personal questions, in order to commit identity theft. Do not provide any of this information to unscheduled visitors.

They may have things with them that look official. Here are some examples:

- Clipboards
- Utility badges
- Hard hat
- Magnetic vehicle stickers
- Handheld radio

It is easy for scammers to acquire such things, so always verify with your utility company, using the number on your bill, before answering questions or granting anyone entry to your home.

Source: Protect Energy Savers

DEMAND RATE CHANGE BEGINNING IN MARCH

Effective March 1, 2022, accounts subject to a monthly demand charge will see a price increase in the demand component. This is due to a proportional capacity price increase levied upon Rock Energy by our wholesale provider.

Energy Vampires can add 10% or more to electric bills

Plug “Energy Vampires” into smart power strips, or unplug items when not in use. **TOP ENERGY DRAINERS:** TVs, Computers, Video Game Consoles, Microwaves, Printers, Cell Phone Chargers, Standby Coffee Makers, Surround Sound Systems, and Satellite/Cable Boxes

Shane Larson, CEO

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**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936