


Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

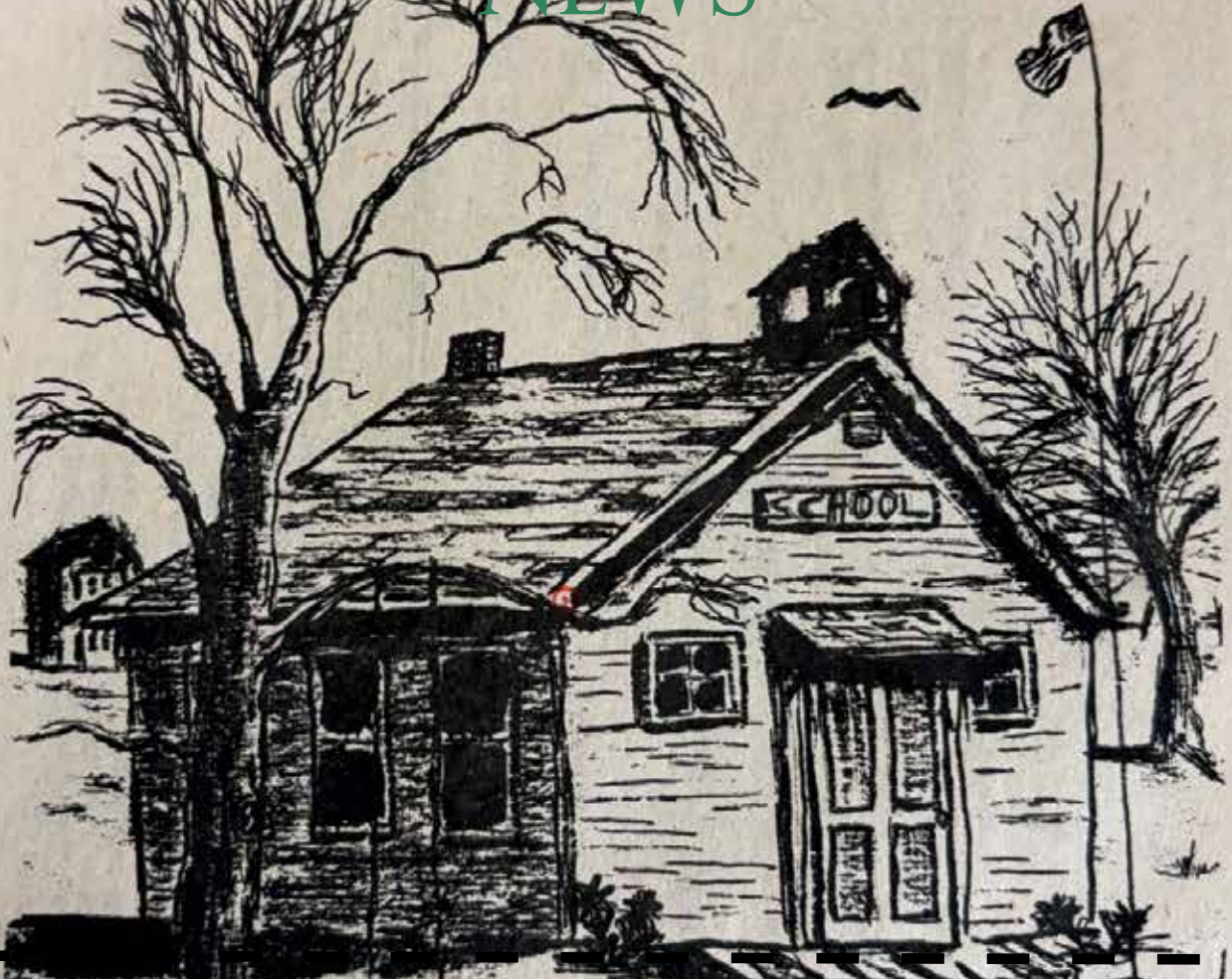
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

REC ANNUAL MEETING
April 18, 2026 9:00 a.m.
30 E Robb Rd, Richland Center

April 2026

NEWS

RICHLAND ELECTRIC CO-OP EDITION
LOCAL NEWS AND FEATURES—CENTER PAGES
APRIL 1976



Baumgartner

OFFICIAL NOTICE

of Richland Electric Cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting

The 90th annual meeting of the members of Richland Electric Cooperative will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Richland Electric Cooperative Service Center, 30 E Robb Road, Richland Center, Wisconsin. The cooperative will provide mail-in ballots for the director elections at least seven days in advance. Please note director election mail-in ballots must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.

Action to be taken on the following business items:

1. Approval of the 2025 annual meeting minutes
2. Reports of officers, directors, committees, and employees
3. Guest speaker Ben Porath, Dairyland Power Cooperative's Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
4. The election of three directors
5. Any old or new business to be brought before the membership
6. Prize drawing
6. Adjourn

RICHLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 90TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Saturday, April 18, 2026

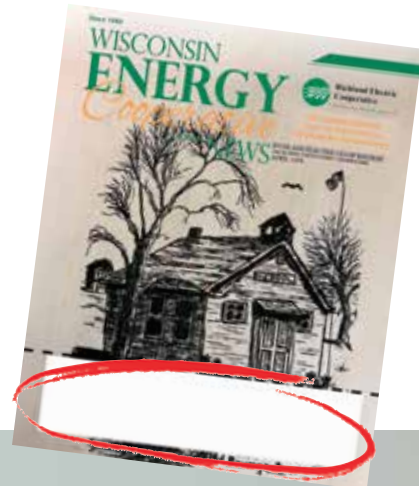
**Richland Electric Cooperative
30 E Robb Rd, Richland Center, WI 53581**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Light snack and refreshments

The business meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

- Receive a \$20 bill credit and attendance prize for attending the meeting (one per membership). In addition, you will be entered into a Grand Prize Drawing of a landscape tree delivered and planted by our team. For all drawings, winners need to be present.
- Members who bring the address slip from the front of this April issue of *WECN* will have the chance to win a \$50 bill credit.



**BRING THE MAILING LABEL
ON THE FRONT COVER OF
THIS MAGAZINE FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 BILL
CREDIT!**





**Lineworkers are Ready
When it Matters Most**



Amy Martin
CEO/General Manager

As CEO/General Manager of Richland Electric Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system—they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, local businesses, schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers. Electric cooperatives like REC were built on the principle of neighbors

helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, our crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand anytime the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 18, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, they are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: Dave, Grant, Jim, Grant, Nate, Jadon, and Mason, thank you for your hard work and your readiness and commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A LOOK BACK AT 2025



Calvin Sebranek
Board President

As your local power provider, Richland Electric Cooperative's (REC) vision is to be a trusted provider of power and leadership to enrich the lives of people in the communities it serves.

The demand on the electric grid is evolving rapidly. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and this trend does not appear to be

slowing down anytime soon.

Throughout 2025, the board of directors remained focused on sound governance and responsible oversight. We worked closely with management to ensure decisions were made with the best interest of the membership.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve our needs, components must be repaired or replaced. Routine maintenance, along with our right-of-way clearing program extends lifespan and reduces outage time. Additional work will continue in our right-of-way clearing program as we move into the new year.

Safety is a cornerstone of your Cooperative's operations and requires commitment at all levels. The safety of our employees, members, and the public is our number-one priority. We continue to participate in education programs, conferences, and in-house training available to all employees. We also participate in NRECA's Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). In 2025, your Cooperative successfully completed this assessment and was awarded the Certificate of Safety Achievement. REC had zero employee lost time or vehicle accidents for five consecutive years (2021-2025).

Unlike investor-owned utilities, REC provides members with "at cost" electric service. At the end of the year, after all expenses have been covered, a portion of any excess funds is allocated back to our members in the form of capital credits. In 2025, your Board of Directors elected to retire over \$275,000 back to members.

Commitment to community remained at the center of REC in 2025. This commitment was evident in our continued involvement in local events, community initiatives, and engagement with members.

As we continue in 2026, your board's goal will remain to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable power for years to come.

RICHLAND ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

 SAMUEL MILLER KICKAPOO HIGH SCHOOL	 JAMES JAKUBOWSKI RICHLAND CENTER HIGH SCHOOL
 KAILEY NEWKIRK ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL	 KENNEDY GOUEY RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL
 TRISTEN PETERSON ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL	 JOSEPHINE BAKER KICKAPOO HIGH SCHOOL
 SAMUEL EDEL KICKAPOO HIGH SCHOOL	





SNAPSHOTS OF 2025

Row 1: 2025 member recipients of the Richland Electric Scholarship; REC lineman, Grant and Dave, participate in the Kickapoo School District Conservation Day, performing a Hot Line Demonstration for students; Row 2: Riverdale students promote our Bottled Water Scholarship Program; REC employees and board members volunteer at the Rotary Lights in the Park. Row 3: In July, REC sponsored six students to the Youth Leadership Congress in Menomonie; in October, REC members enjoyed a meal at our Annual Member Appreciation Picnic. Row 4: REC CEO, Amy, accepts a Safety Achievement Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; over the summer, four of our linemen represented REC at the Richland Hospital Foundation Golf Outing; REC Director of Finance, Karen, presents member donations as well as a monetary donation from REC to the Richland Community Food Pantry.



RICHLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING RULES

April 18, 2026

1. The meeting will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th edition), except as modified below.
2. Only members, staff, and those on the program may participate in discussion during the meeting. Members will be recognized by holding up their voting cards. Each member shall state his or her name and address when speaking.
3. Each member's comments and questions shall be limited to three (3) minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two (2) minutes.
4. As explained in a prior notification to the membership, member resolutions may only be offered at the meeting if they were submitted to the Cooperative no less than 60 days prior to the meeting, that is, February 18, 2026.
5. Questions and comments from members will be in order during the "New Business" portion of the meeting and when requested by speakers on the program.
6. Voting on motions or resolutions coming before the meeting shall be by voting cards, with members holding up their cards to indicate whether they are voting in favor of or opposed to the proposition.
7. Any request for a recount of ballots in an election must be made before adjournment of the meeting. Unless a recount is timely requested, or the members otherwise direct, the results of the election shall be final upon adjournment and the ballots will be destroyed following adjournment of the meeting.

DAIRYLAND DIRECTOR REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025



Jeff Monson,
Dairyland Power
Cooperative Director

Richland Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider is Dairyland Power Cooperative. As a generation & transmission (G&T) cooperative, Dairyland is owned by the 24 distribution cooperative members it serves – including Richland Electric Cooperative.

Dairyland serves its members and power supply customers with safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to meet the needs of our local rural communities. Safety is Dairyland's top priority, as noted by President & CEO Brent Ridge, who says if cooperative employees do not work safely, nothing else matters.

Dairyland generates and obtains electricity from solar, wind, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric and biomass facilities. Being part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) ensures electricity is delivered at cost-competitive rates through a balanced mix of renewable (intermittent) and traditional "baseload" resources.

Growth & Grants

In April 2025, Dairyland received confirmation from the Trump Administration that its \$595 million Empowering Rural America (New ERA) grant from September 2024 would be funded. Dairyland will pursue 500 to 1,000 megawatts (MW) of power purchase agreements for clean energy projects.

By being part of one of the largest transmission buildouts in history, Dairyland is supporting regional reliability to benefit our members. MISO has named Dairyland a developer for three projects in its Long Range Transmission Plan – Tranches 1 and 2.1.

The Alma-Blair Transmission Project will be a 345-kilovolt [kV] transmission line that will span 33 miles between the Alma Substation near the Mississippi River in western Wisconsin, and the Tremval Substation near Blair, Wis.

In southeastern Minnesota, the Wabasha Relocation Project will relocate about 13 miles of 161 kV transmission lines in Wabasha County. Also, Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland, LLC, will jointly develop and co-own the MariBell Transmission Line. One segment of MISO's larger buildout, the proposed project is for a 765 kV/161 kV double-circuit line between Marion, Minn., and Bell Center, Wis. (about 140 miles).

At the end of 2025, Dairyland acquired the Rocky Road Energy Center (East Dundee) and Elgin Energy Center (Elgin) in Illinois. The purchase of existing

natural gas-fired power plants supports the Cooperative's focus on sustainability and reliability for its members while transitioning to a lower-carbon future.

As part of its overall sustainable power supply plan, Dairyland continues to explore small modular nuclear reactors. With nuclear as a viable future energy option, Dairyland hired Grover Hettel in September to be their Executive Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer.

Advocating for Security

Dairyland works with elected officials, regardless of party affiliation, to advocate for policies benefitting electric cooperatives, including cybersecurity policies. In January 2026, Dairyland's Vice President & Chief Information Officer Nate Melby testified at a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives focused on solutions for energy infrastructure that would help strengthen collaboration between the government and the private/independent sector, detect cybersecurity threats and increase physical security.

Managing Extreme Cold

As we flipped the calendar to 2026, dangerously low temperatures and severe winter weather significantly impacted the Dairyland system, and the MISO and PJM (east coast) grid operators' footprints. In addition to the cold, forced generation outages resulted in MISO declaring a Maximum Generation Event Step 2c/Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 2 on Saturday, Jan. 24, for the first time since 2009. Additionally, Dairyland declared several Full Load Control events the end of January and early February to help reduce members' electricity use during times of both peak demand and peak prices. These coordinated efforts help the grid remain stable.



Dairyland Power Cooperative coordinated their 3rd Annual Day of Service in October and REC was able to send two volunteers. Above, cooperative employees gather for a picture before heading out to do cleanup at the Yellow River State Forest. Duties included Grove clean-up as well as painting at the main headquarters.



Dairyland and Richland Electric Cooperative have worked to mitigate the financial impact of the severe weather and forced generation outages. However, due to demand, operational and market challenges during the event, a power cost adjustment charge will appear on monthly electricity bills throughout the spring.

We live in dynamic times, and Dairyland's Board of Directors meets monthly to ensure our cooperatives' needs

are heard, working together to achieve strong outcomes for our members. Ninety years ago, electric cooperatives were founded on the principle that collaboration improves quality of life—a value we proudly continue on your behalf.

*Jeff Monson,
Dairyland Power Cooperative Director*

MINUTES OF THE 89TH ANNUAL MEETING OF RICHLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *Saturday, March 22, 2025*

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Richland Electric Cooperative was held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at the Richland Electric Cooperative Service Center at 30 E. Robb Road in Richland Center, Wisconsin beginning at 9:00 a.m. President Calvin Sebranek called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Gerald Wendorf and Robert Schmitz, then continued with Honor to Veterans and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The proof of notice and quorum was presented by Vice-President Dan Hillberry that greater than 25 members were present which constitutes a quorum. Hillberry also provided a statement declaring the meeting officially open.

President Sebranek presented the rules of the meeting as determined by the Nominating and Rules Committee in accordance with the bylaws. There were no objections to the rules as printed.

CEO/General Manager Amy Martin introduced guests, directors, and staff.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting as printed was offered and properly seconded. Motion carried.

A safety video "This is Your License to Live" was presented.

President Sebranek asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report provided to the members printed in the *WECN* magazine. Martin provided highlights on the financials. Sebranek asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report as printed in the *WECN*

magazine. A motion to approve the Financial Report was offered and it was properly seconded. Motion carried.

President Sebranek asked Vice-President Dan Hillberry to conduct business on the President's Report.

Hillberry asked if there were any questions regarding the President's Report provided to the members within the *WECN* magazine. Hearing none he asked for a motion to accept the President's Report as printed in the *WECN* magazine. A motion was made, and it was properly seconded. Motion carried.

Dairyland Power Director, Jeff Monson, introduced guest speaker Jeremy Browning.

Jessica Shrestha, from Fredrikson & Bryon, P.A. asked for old business. There was no old business.

Jessica Shrestha asked for any new business. There was no new business.

Jessica Shrestha announced the results of the election which featured two contested races. Position one included Kevin Kepler and Steve Carrow. Kevin Kepler was re-elected. Position two was uncontested, and Tim Tiller was re-elected. Position three included Don Huffman and Dennis Brown. Dennis Brown was elected.

Finance Director, Karen Olson, and Billing Supervisor, Susanne Joyce, drew door prizes.

President Sebranek asked for a motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. and one was offered and properly seconded. Motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Murphy, Secretary*

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

For Year Ending December 31, 2025

WHAT WE HAVE	2024	2025
Total Utility Plant	\$34,573,097	\$35,425,490
Less Reserve for Depreciation	\$12,389,839	\$13,298,765
NET UTILITY PLANT	\$22,183,258	\$22,126,725
Investments in Associated Organizations	\$4,530,727	\$4,636,017
TOTAL OTHER PROPERTY & INVESTMENTS	\$4,530,727	\$4,636,017
Cash	\$565,170	\$940,342
Notes Receivable	\$239,234	\$176,485
Accounts Receivable	\$990,415	\$958,687
Materials & Supplies	\$387,193	\$367,679
Other Current & Accrued Assets	\$111,315	\$141,906
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,293,327	\$2,585,099
DEFERRED DEBITS	\$8,682	\$8,338
TOTAL ASSETS	\$29,015,994	\$29,356,179
WHAT WE OWE		
Long Term Debt – CFC	\$14,464,085	\$14,418,956
Capital Lease	\$4,736	\$2,862
LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS	\$14,468,821	\$14,421,818
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	\$522,840	\$545,129
Current Maturities of Capital Lease	\$11,079	\$1,874
Accounts Payable	\$409,953	\$644,420
Member Deposits	\$75,030	\$74,690
Other Current Accrued Liabilities	\$414,912	\$436,590
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$1,433,814	\$1,702,703
DEFERRED CREDITS	\$1,086,962	\$918,731
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$16,989,597	\$17,043,252
WHAT WE OWN		
Patronage Capital	\$8,486,691	\$8,488,941
Other Margins & Equities	\$3,539,706	\$3,823,986
TOTAL EQUITIES AND MARGINS	\$12,026,397	\$12,312,927
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$29,015,994	\$29,356,179



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

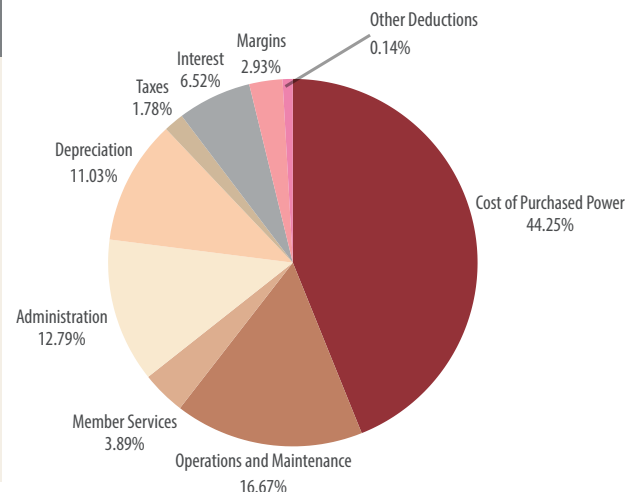
For Year Ending December 31, 2025

	2024	2025
OPERATING REVENUE	\$9,097,233	\$9,560,467
Cost of Purchased Power	\$3,934,539	\$4,230,339
Operations and Maintenance	\$1,437,365	\$1,593,555
Consumer Accounts	\$260,177	\$268,340
Consumer Service & Information	\$126,134	\$103,413
General & Administrative	\$1,260,630	\$1,222,955
Depreciation Expense	\$1,039,736	\$1,054,786
Taxes	\$164,690	\$170,031
Interest on long-term debt	\$638,618	\$622,934
Other Deductions	\$30,514	\$12,907
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$8,892,403	\$9,279,260
OPERATING MARGINS	\$204,830	\$281,207
Interest Income	\$15,077	\$13,563
Other Non-Operating Income (loss)	\$(20,666)	\$(2,510)
Dairyland Power Capital Credits	\$205,886	\$194,080
Other Capital Credits	\$66,208	\$62,445
TOTAL MARGINS	\$471,335	\$548,785

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT RICHLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

	2024	2025
Members Served	3283	3291
Miles of Line	1001	1001
Density – Meters per Mile of Line	4.26	4.27
Connected Meters	4267	4276
Total kWh Purchased	47,496,169	49,028,467
Total kWh Sold	44,378,066	45,788,991
Average Bill per Member, per Month	\$230.92	\$242.09
Average kWh Consumption per Member, per Month	1126	1159
Capital Credits Paid to Date	\$7,176,288	\$7,455,244

HOW YOUR 2025 OPERATING REVENUE DOLLAR WAS SPENT





Youth Leadership Conference

UW–Stout | July 14-16, 2026

See inside back cover for Youth Leadership Congress Application



The annual **Youth Leadership Conference** is a dynamic three-day event for high school students across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about **the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses**.

Take the opportunity to:

- See what makes the **cooperative business model different and successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

Ready to lead, create, and make your voice heard? This teen-powered leadership conference is run by teens, for teens—and it's all planned by a youth board elected at last year's event. Step up, speak out, and shape the future!

Who should apply?

- High school students with family members who belong to Richland Electric Cooperative.
- Students who are active in their school and community.
- Students who are interested in learning more about the cooperative business model.

What does it cost?

- All registration costs are covered by the generous support of your local cooperative.
- Students should contact Richland Electric Cooperative to apply for a full sponsorship.



Amy Martin, Manager/CEO

30 E. Robb Rd., P.O. Box 439, Richland Center, WI 53581
608-647-3173

www.rec.coop • Find us on Facebook

Trina Duffy-Brauer, Editor



Richland Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Board of Directors

Calvin Sebranek, President • Daniel Hillberry, Vice President • Judy Murphy, Secretary • Tim Tiller, Treasurer
Dennis Brown, Jim Goplin, Steven Fuller, Jeff Monson, Kevin Kepler



Youth Leadership Congress Participant Application Form

July 14-16, 2026 at UW-Stout

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is a dynamic three-day event sponsored by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA). YLC is a unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

To apply for sponsorship, submit completed form as directed below by June 9th. You will be contacted with more information and additional registration steps at a later time.

First Name(s) _____ **Last Name(s)** _____

Sponsoring Cooperative: Richland Electric Cooperative

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Student Email _____ **Student Phone #** _____

Gender _____ **Grade entering in fall 2026** _____ **Age at the time of camp** _____

T-shirt size _____ (men's sizing)

Parent Email (used to send links to online health forms) _____

Return this completed form to the following office:

Attn: Nicole Prochaska

Richland Electric Cooperative

30 E Robb Road

Richland Center, WI 53581

Or:

Email: nprochaska@rec.coop

G.R.A.C.E. Inc.
Greater Richland
Area Cancer
Elimination



ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH G.R.A.C.E.?

Mission Statement

Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination

works to fund cancer research, education and to assist cancer patients.

WHEN THE
BAD NEWS IS
CANCER,
THE GOOD
NEWS IS
G.R.A.C.E. -
RON FRUIT

SERVICE AREA



- Richland County, WI**
 - o entire geographic area
- Crawford County, WI**
 - o Clayton, Marietta, Scott
- Grant County, WI**
 - o Boscobel, Muscoda, Watterstown
- Iowa County, WI**
 - o Pulaski, Wyoming
- Sauk County, WI**
 - o Bear Creek, Ironton, LaValle, Spring Green, Washington, Woodland
- Vernon County, WI**
 - o Greenwood, Kickapoo, Liberty, Stark, Union, Webster



Patient Assistance
608-604-2900
walkwithgracebenefit@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATES

3RD ANNUAL RACE FOR GRACE

Saturday, May 9, 2026 at the Richland Center High School Track

WRCO 100.9 RADIO AUCTION

July 27-July 31; 10:00 a.m. - Noon daily

23RD ANNUAL WALK WITH G.R.A.C.E.

Friday, August 14, 2026; Location TBD

To learn more, visit our website at walkwithgrace.com
or gracelocalcancer@gmail.com

From 2003-2025, the Local Patient Fund of Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination has approved a total of 1,074 applications and has paid out over \$448,135.86 in financial assistance to eligible applicants.

HAPPY EASTER

**RICHLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
WE WILL BE CLOSED APRIL 3RD IN
OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY.**

 **Richland Electric
Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative