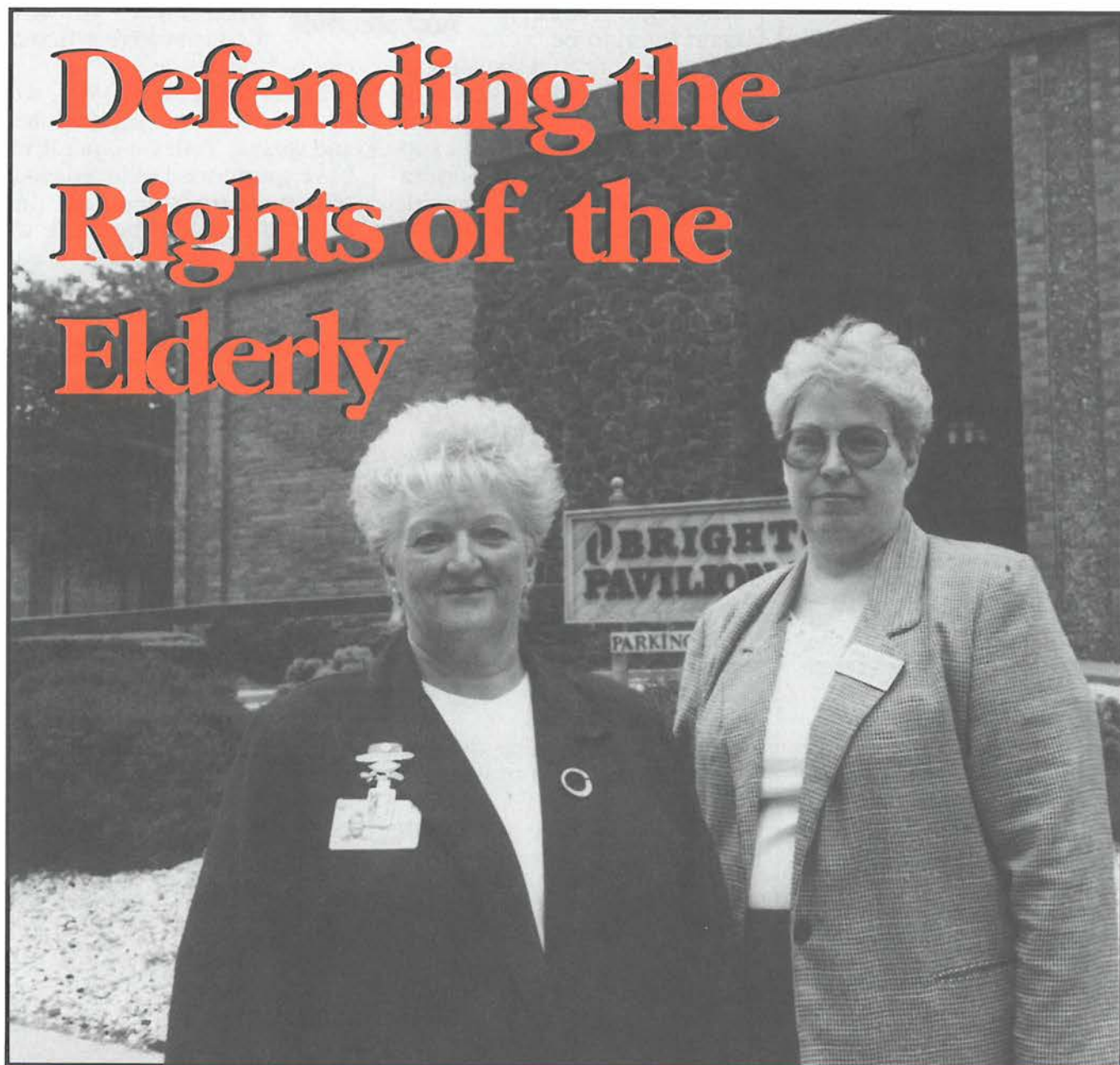


July, 1998
Vol. 47, Number 7

Adams Outlet

News for Members Of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point, Illinois

Defending the Rights of the Elderly



Story on page 4 & 5...

Adams Outlet

Office hours:

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To report an outage:

1-800-232-4797

Local calls dial direct:

(217) 593-7701

MISSION STATEMENT

*"Adams Electrical
Co-Operative is
committed to exceeding
the expectations of
those we serve!"*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Editor

David Stuva, CREC



by Douglas Aeilts
General Manager

Assessment Schedules Stable in 1998

Over one year ago, the Co-Operative announced its first substantial assessment schedule (rate) reduction in many years. This reversed years of higher assessments that frustrated the members, directors and employees. Our assessments are still higher than we want them to be.

Last year's assessment schedule reduction was a direct result of a rate reduction from our wholesale power supplier, Soyland Power Cooperative. Soyland is able to provide this rate reduction because of a successful government debt buy-out and a new power supply agreement with Illinois Power Company. Soyland also transferred their 13% ownership of the Clinton Nuclear Power Station back to Illinois Power Company.

Approximately 30% of Soyland's wholesale power costs are directly attributed to paying off their existing debt. In 2002, Soyland's debt is scheduled to be paid off.

Soyland's base wholesale power costs are very competi-

tive with the wholesale market in the Midwest region.

The Co-Operative has experienced good electric load growth through commercial and new home construction for the last several years. But mild weather conditions make a big difference in the Co-Operative's finan-

cial performance.

In the first part of 1998, we had an extremely mild winter and spring. Your Co-Operative has experienced reduced electric heating sales and decreased revenue because of this mild weather. It is also anticipated that the Co-Operative will have fewer margins this year because of our assessment schedule reductions and the mild weather. Our June sales were good and July is starting out really strong.

The board of directors and staff are working diligently to maintain stable assessments through the year 2002 until Soyland reduces our wholesale power costs. ■



*Soyland is
forecasting that
their wholesale
power costs
will be steady
until 2001 with
substantial
wholesale
power cost
reductions
in 2002.*

Adams Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar today!

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1998!

Registration begins at 5 p.m.

Details coming soon.

Nominating Committee Report

Pursuant to the bylaws, the nominating committee met at the office of the cooperative in Camp Point, Illinois on Monday evening, June 8, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. to nominate candidates for election of directors of the Adams Electrical Co-Operative. All members of the committee were present. Committee members are:

District 1

Marvin Phillips
Gene Acheson

District 2

Brent Flesner
Dwayne Marlow

District 3

David Ellwood
Anthony Welsh

Member-at-large

Danny Hanning

Charles Burton, attorney, was present at the opening of the meeting and presented each member of the committee a copy of the bylaws and called their attention to the qualifications of directors and the nominating procedure. Charles Burton served as chairman pro tem until a chairman had been elected. Dwayne Marlow was elected chairman and Anthony Welsh was elected secretary.



From Left: A.D. Marlow, Danny Hanning, Marvin Phillips, Brent Flesner, Anthony Welsh, Gene Acheson and David Elwood. The 1998 Nominating Committee met June 8, 1998 to prepare a slate of director candidates.

Charles Burton then excused himself from the meeting.

The nominating committee nominated:

District 1: Doug Houser and Alan Acheson, representing Astoria Township of Fulton County: Littleton, Oakland, Buena Vista, Woodstock, Browning, Rushville, Bainbridge, Hickory and Frederick Townships of Schuyler County. (Committee member Gene Acheson did not participate in the nomination of Alan Acheson.)

District 2: Lyle Waner and Dennis Sherrick, representing

Keene, Northeast and Houston Townships of Adams County; Augusta, Chili and St. Albans Townships of Hancock County.

District 3: George Schneider, representing Gilmer, Columbus, Burton and Liberty Townships of Adams County. ■

Dwayne Marlow, Chairman

Anthony Welsh, Secretary

Nominations by Petition

The bylaws of Adams Electrical Co-Operative provide that nominations can be made by petition of 25 members. Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office.

The names of the nominees by petition will be listed on the official ballot to be voted on at the September 9, 1998 annual meeting. Petitions must be returned to the office by 5 p.m. on August 24, 1998. ■



Cover: From left, Sandee Marcinek, Assistant Administrator of the Brighton Pavilion Nursing Home in Quincy and Donna Schutte, Ombudsman for the West Central Illinois Case Coordination Unit in Quincy. Donna Schutte investigates and resolves complaints made by long term care residents, which may adversely affect their health, safety, welfare or rights.

From left: Donna Schutte and L. Faye Holtshouser share a light moment at Brighton Pavilion Nursing Home.

Defending the Rights of the Elderly

By David Stuva

If you ask most people what the word "ombudsman" means, you'll probably draw a blank stare. But ask that same question to a nursing home resident, who has received help from one, and you'll probably see a grateful smile!

The word "ombudsman" (om-budz-man) means: "One who speaks on behalf of another." Many long term care residents can not deal with problems or take action by themselves. The primary responsibility of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is to investigate and resolve complaints made by family members or residents of long term care facilities.

As an Ombudsman for the West Central Illinois Case Coordination Unit in Quincy, Donna Schutte is committed to protecting the rights and quality of life for nursing home residents in a six county area.

"Our first priority is to solve problems in the nursing home facility," says Donna. "We are an advocate for the resi-

dent, but we can't do anything without their permission. If the problem involves abuse or neglect the Ombudsman is mandated to report this to the Department of Public Health."

Donna has a good working relationship with the administrators of the 22 nursing homes in her district. Donna or one of the 15 volunteers, who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for district's 2561 long term residents, visits each facility on a regular basis.

"Employees at nursing homes will call us if they feel a resident's rights are being violated. Examples include financial exploitation by a family member or questions regarding guardians or power of attorney," says Donna. "Two unfortunate cases of financial exploitation were investigated. One was turned over to the Illinois State Police. The other is still pending with the Adams County States Attorney's office. Both cases involved Power of Attorney's misusing over \$400,00 from each elderly

“ Donna’s office provides training sessions on resident rights issues and provides important information to family members. ”

resident.”

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program in Illinois has been in existence since the late 1970's. The program is administered by the Illinois Department on Aging through a system of 18 sub state ombudsman programs, which work with nursing home residents, families, community groups and nursing home staff on issues that affect the quality of the nursing home environment.

As mandated by the (Federal Older Americans Act) and state law, each ombudsman program is required to make a regular presence in all long term care facilities within its geographic jurisdiction. To help make a more frequent "regular presence" the program provides a three day State training session for volunteers interested in becoming a Community Ombudsman. Public education activities include: speaking engagements; conducting workshops; training volunteers to participate in the ombudsman program and promoting media coverage of long term care issues.

"Brighten Pavilion considers the ombudsman program a resource which helps us provide the best care possible," says Sandee Marcinek, Assistant Administrator of the Brighton Pavilion Nursing Home in Quincy. "Donna's office provides training sessions on resident rights issues and provides important information to family members."

"Caring for family members or loved ones with a deteriorating physical condition can be an exhausting experience. Brighton Pavilion organizes support groups to help family members deal with the stress Alzheimer's or other crippling illnesses. We have a caring staff who are very con-



Marcia Holmes and Florence Mooney are residents at Brighton Pavilion Nursing Home.

scientious to the stress that can be present in a nursing home."

As the "baby boomers" continue to grow older, the need for quality health care and long-term care facilities will continue to increase. Ombudsmen may be faced with a totally different set of concerns and challenges.

"In the future, home health care services will enable the elderly to stay at home much longer. That may translate into an older and more fragile nursing home population," adds Donna. "I think nursing homes will see more short term stays while people recover from hospital stays before they go back home." ■



During a visit, Donna Schutte checks with Mary West to see how her arm is healing after a recent fall.

The goals of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program are:

RESOLVE resident complaints by involving concerned parties.

INFORM residents of their rights as established by law.

PROVIDE information on resident needs/concerns to their families and to the community.

ADVOCATE on behalf of residents for changes in laws, regulations and policies to improve long-term care services.

For details call 800-252-9027

Notification Assignment of 1997 Margins

Assignments of 1997 margins to members doing business with Adams Electrical Co-Operative were calculated in July 1998. A total of \$311,993 of margins has been allocated for 1997. The factor for rural residential service is .029834409.

To calculate your specific allocation, multiply your net electric bill in dollars (Net=Gross bill less applicable utility tax) times the factor above. If you need assistance in calculating your allocation, please call the

cooperative office.

This amount is only an accounting credit. It cannot be claimed at the present time nor can it be applied against your current electric bill.

The cooperative has just paid approximately 21 percent of 1974 capital credits, so it will be some time before we will pay 1997 capital credits.

Please remember, in order to receive capital credits, you must be a member and have service in your name. If you are receiving electric service

in someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not receive capital credits. The capital credit check will always be issued in the name of the person on the membership, or the estate of a deceased member.

If you have moved, please provide the cooperative with your new address so we can send your future capital credit checks. Please contact Steve Jennings, manager of finance, if you have any questions. ■

Budget Billing Available

Weather and usage patterns cause electric bills to fluctuate every month. Adams Electrical Co-Operative offers a program for members to help average bills out over the year and make payments more predictable.

Any residential member with a primary residence may join the cooperative's budget billing plan. The plan does not provide a lower assessment schedule or cost more money.

It allows a member to pay a flat monthly charge for a 12-month period. Any power cost adjustment is itemized

separately on the monthly bill and is not included in the budgeted amount.

To qualify, a member must have a satisfactory credit rating or furnish acceptable references. The member will receive a meter reading card each month showing the amount of the budget payment. We ask that you send us the meter reading each month, but pay only the budgeted amount.

After paying these 12 equal payments for your electricity, any adjustment due to any overpayment or underpay-

ment of the actual bill for the year will be rolled into the next 12 months payments.

In the event the member becomes delinquent in the budget payments, they will automatically forfeit their privilege and revert to regular billing.

If you are interested in the budget billing plan, contact the cooperative office. Cooperative personnel will explain the benefits and obligations of the plan and work out budget payments. Members already on budget billing need not contact us. ■

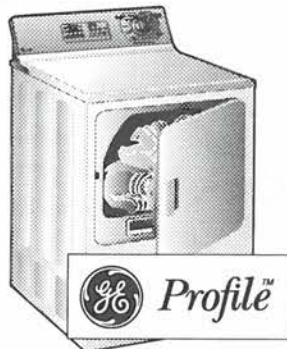
Going on Vacation? Don't forget your electric bill!

Most vacations are often planned weeks or months in advance. They seldom are spur-of-the-moment decisions. If you are going to be gone over the eighth of the month, please make sure your electric bill is paid before you leave. Either mail the payment by the 8th of the month or use the convenient drop box by the front door of our building.

If you plan to get away for three or four weeks at one time, call the office so we can estimate your electric bill. Vacation is a time for rest and relaxation, not a time to worry about late payment charges or a trip charge to read your meter! ■



HOT Summer Deals



Super Capacity 7-Cycle Heavy Duty Dryer

DPSQ475ET

- Electronic Sensor Dry System.
- Optional Extra Care.
- Deluxe end-of-cycle signal.
- Dryer interior light.
- QuietPackage sound insulation.

\$469.95

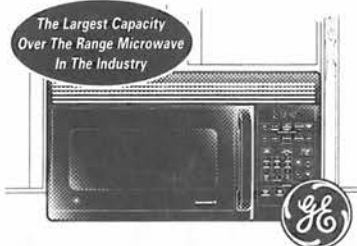


Super Capacity 12-Cycle Heavy Duty Washer

WPSQ312OT

- Auto HandWash cycle for fine washables.
- 3 wash/spin speed • combinations.
- Variable water levels.
- QuietPackage sound insulation.

\$559.95



Spacemaker XL Microwave Oven

- Large 1.3 cu. ft. oven cavity with temperature probe, 900 watts.
- Turntable On/Off feature.
- Interactive scrolling display conveniently provides step-by-step instructions.

\$389.95



30" Smooth Top Range with Self-Cleaning Oven

RB787GY

- Smooth, easy to clean patterned glass ceramic cooktop.
- 4 hot lights stay on until surface cools.
- Auto oven shut-off turns the oven off after 12 hours.

\$659.95



20.6 Cu. Ft. Capacity No-Frost Refrigerator

CTX21EAZ

- Adjustable shelves with snack pan.
- Gallon storage on door.
- 2 see-thru vegetable crispers.
- Equipped for optional icemaker.

\$659.95



David Stuva
Manager of Member Services

Appliances can be seen at the Camp Point Showroom between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Adams Electrical Co-Operative
Your Full-Service Appliance Dealer Since 1959
phone: 800-232-4797



Randy Rigg
Lead Technician

HOTPOINT

Keeping cool this summer **How to keep your electric bills down**

"The good old summertime" can have one big drawback: high electric bills from running your air conditioner. However, your electric cooperative recommends the following efficiency tips when you use your air conditioner this summer:

 Adams Electrical Co-Operative offers a controlled central air conditioning (CAC) rate. A separate submeter records the kWh's used by the central air conditioner. During June, July, August and September, all cooling usage on the submeter is billed at 6 cents a kWh.

 Set your thermostat higher. If you raise the thermostat 6 degrees (from 72°F), you should save 12 to 47 percent in cooling costs, depending on your climate.

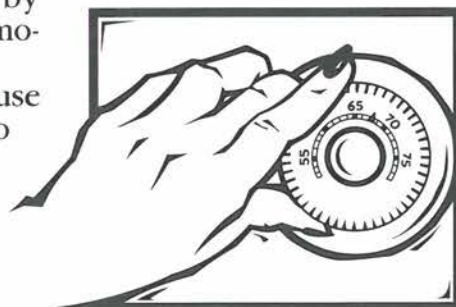
 Set the fan speed on high except in very humid weather. When it's humid, set the fan on low; you'll get less cooling, but more moisture will be removed from the air.

 Clean or replace air conditioner filters at least once a month. When the filter is dirty, the fan has to run longer to remove the same amount of air, using more electricity.

 Consider using a fan with your window air conditioner to spread the cooled air farther without greatly increasing your power use. But, be sure the unit is strong enough to help cool the additional space.

 Do not place lamps or televisions near your air conditioning thermostat. Heat from them is

sensed by the thermostat and could cause the unit to run longer than necessary.



 Keep out the daytime sun with shades and/or curtains and keep lights low or off.

If you have any questions about saving electricity this summer, call Adams Electrical Co-Operative at 1-800-232-4797. ■

Adams Electrical Co-Operative ***Member Survey Winners***

Wayne G. Tallcott
RR 2 Box 156
Mendon, IL 62351

Vern Lubker
PO Box 43
Lima, IL 62348

Charles Berry, Jr.
RR 2 Box 259-3
Rushville, IL 62681

Brian C. Maddox
RR 1 Box 198A
Fowler, IL 62338

On July 1st, these four members were drawn as the lucky winners of \$100 electric credits for returning their survey by June 30th. ■