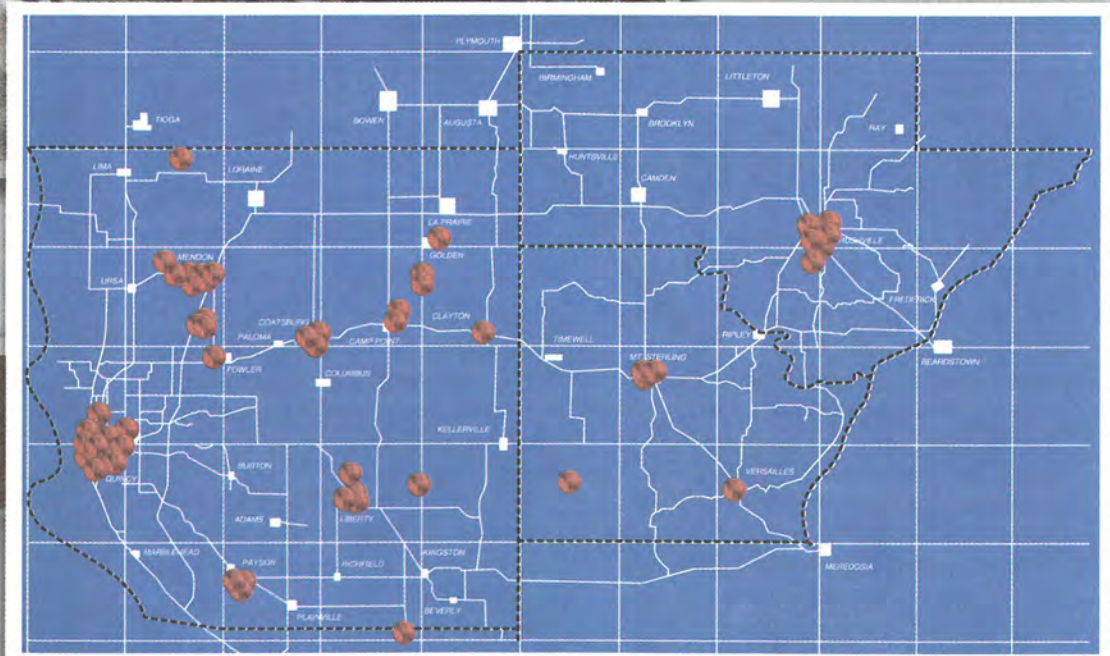


Adams Outlet

News for Members of Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, Illinois



**It Just Makes
“Cents”** Pages 8 & 9

Adams Electric Cooperative Honors Retiring Advisory Committee Members

On October 30, 2007, Adams Electric Cooperative Advisory Committee members met in Camp Point to discuss several Cooperative issues.

Penny Roberts, Membership Coordinator from Air Evac Lifeteam spoke about a program being considered by several electric cooperatives.

The committee also watched a video about the Prairie State Energy Campus, a coal-fired power plant expected to be online in 2011. The Cooperative will own 12 MW of the output from Prairie State. The coal plant will utilize state-of-the-art emission technologies.

Members of the Advisory Committee completed a brief survey about the 2007 Annual Meeting and offered their opinions on the activities, food and entertainment.

Retiring Advisory Committee members were honored for the completion of their two-year term.



Retiring Advisory Committee Members

*Fred and Cindy Elmore
of Rushville*

*David and Barb Higley
of Golden*

*Joseph and Dawn Ormond
of Liberty*

*Terry and Cheryl Dillard
of Mt. Sterling*

*Gary and Joann Kennedy
of Camden*

*Paul and Norma Hildebrand
of Plainville*

*Russell and Cynthia Cook
of Mendon*

*Michael and Gail Cochran
of Timewell*

*Tony and Patricia Estes
of Camp Point*

Adams Electric Cooperative's Advisory Committee is comprised of two members (individuals or couples) from each director district. Advisory Committee members serve staggered terms and are selected by the board of directors.

Ask the Editor

Member Q&A



The Liberty Grade School RIF program wishes to thank you for the \$750 Penny Power grant which has enabled us to continue the RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program. With the money from this program, we have been able to give every child in our district a free book of their choice. We deeply appreciate the benefit of Penny Power's contribution to greater literacy for our children.

*Sincerely,
Janet Summy, RIF Coordinator,
Liberty Grade School*

When are the next Penny Power grant applications due?

Grant applications are reviewed quarterly. The next deadline is January 2, 2008.

Dear Sirs:

Lyle Forsythe and Kraig Street did a remarkably good job (tree trimming) and were so polite and knowledgeable about their work. They cleaned all the wood and limbs up so well and worked together wonderfully. These men are welcome on my property any time!

*Sincerely,
Lawrence Shinn*

Email your questions and/or comments to: ldotson@adams.net (Please write "Ask the Editor" in the subject line.) Or, mail your questions/comments to:
Attn: Laura, Adams Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320.

Disconnecting Air-Conditioners

AMR meters must have power to the meter; otherwise, the Cooperative's system reads the meter as having a problem. **Therefore, if you disconnect your air-conditioner in the winter, please use the switch outside that is mounted on the condensing unit.** Do not turn off your air-conditioner at the breaker. Doing so requires the Co-op to send an employee to check the meter.

If you have questions, call the engineering dept. at (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797.



Adams Outlet

www.adamselectriccoop.com

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

To report an outage:
1-800-232-4797
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Cooperative is
committed to exceeding
the expectations of
those we serve!"*

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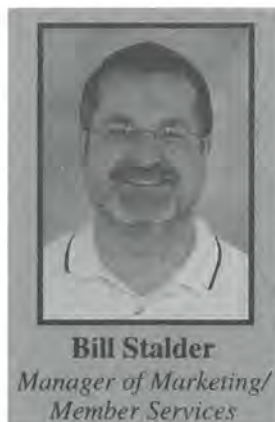
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Editor
Laura Dotson



Penny Power



Since 1938, when Adams Electric Cooperative was founded, staff, employees, and directors have been dedicated to improving the quality of life for our members. We do this by not only providing reliable, affordable electric service, but also by volunteering in our communities, supporting economic development, and by active involvement in important philanthropic endeavors which benefit members and non-members alike.

One of the most successful projects in which we're involved is the Penny Power program. Implemented in 2005, Penny Power has been an incredibly successful way in which we have been able to help local groups, schools, and other organizations in our communities.

Through the Penny Power program, Adams Electric automatically rounds up a participating member's electric bill to the next highest dollar. For example, a consumer's monthly bill of \$124.73 would be automatically rounded up to \$125.00, with the additional 27 cents going to the Penny Power fund. On average, each participating member will contribute fifty cents per month or six dollars a year.

All Penny Power donations are held in a separate account and administered by the Penny Power Grant Review Committee. This committee is comprised of staff and members of the Cooperative who

are currently serving or who have served previously on the AEC Advisory Committee. Grant Review Committee members are appointed by the Adams Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and may serve no longer than two consecutive years. The Grant Review

Committee receives and evaluates all requests, determines who receives funding and how all Penny Power funds will be distributed.

As you will learn from this month's cover story, the money raised through the Penny Power program is making a tremendous difference in our communities. In the first two years, Adams Electric has distributed nearly eighty thousand dollars for worthwhile charities, groups, and service organizations.

The Penny Power program is made possible by the generosity of our membership. During this season of giving and throughout the year, we at Adams Electric Cooperative want you to know that your pennies are working hard to make our area an even better place to live. Thank you for supporting this program. We are looking forward to helping many more groups and organizations in the years to come.

P.S. The next deadline to apply for a Penny Power grant is Tuesday, January 2, 2008. For more information or to request an application for your non-profit organization, contact Bill Stalder at Adams Electric Cooperative at (800) 232-4797.



The Adams Electric Cooperative office will be closed
Mon., Dec. 24 and **Tues., Dec. 25** for the Christmas holiday
and **Tues., Jan. 1** for the New Year's holiday.



Holiday decorating tips

from Safe Electricity

Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources, such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators and televisions, and remember to water your tree frequently.

Make sure extension cords are in good condition and UL-approved, rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.

Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord and never remove the third prong.

Do not overload outlets. If necessary, use surge protector strips with circuit breakers to prevent overloads when multiple outlets are needed.

Keep electric cords away from high-traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways or hide them under rugs and **never staple, nail or tack cords to the wall.**

When setting up outdoor displays, **use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use.** Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCI's. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.

Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

Consider LED Christmas Lights

...they're safer

...they're cheaper to operate

Holiday lights add a lot of beauty to the season but also add up on your electric bill. One way to reduce costs is to purchase LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights. They use ten times less energy than most traditional mini lights and last up to 100,000 hours. LEDs are also more durable and safer since they utilize a flame proof epoxy plastic lens rather than glass, and do not get as hot as traditional lights. And another benefit...if one bulb burns out, the others stay lit.

For more information visit
www.SafeElectricity.org

Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including electric companies and cooperatives, educators and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.

Holiday Lighting Costs

of bulbs on each string X Wattage of each bulb = Watts per string
Watts per string X # of hours lights are on each day = Watts per day
Watts per day ÷ 1,000 = Kilowatt hours
Kilowatt hours X \$.115 per kWh = Cost per string each day
Cost per string each day X # of strings = Total daily cost
Total daily cost X Number of days = Amount added to electric bill

Lighten Up!

Take the Adams Electric Cooperative

CFL Challenge

Help us help the environment by accepting the Adams Electric Cooperative CFL Challenge of installing at least five compact fluorescent bulbs in your home by the end of the year.

CFLs use about 75% less electricity than standard incandescent bulbs, produce far less heat, and last eight to twelve times longer!

Each time you replace a traditional light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb, you not only help the environment, you save money on your electric bill!

Accept the *CFL Challenge* today...
together we can make a difference!



**Adams Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



One winner will be randomly drawn from all pledge forms received by December 31. One entry per member.

Cut at least 5 standard bulbs out of use, replace them with CFLs, and return this pledge form.

You could win a
\$100
electric bill credit!

Name: _____

Address: _____

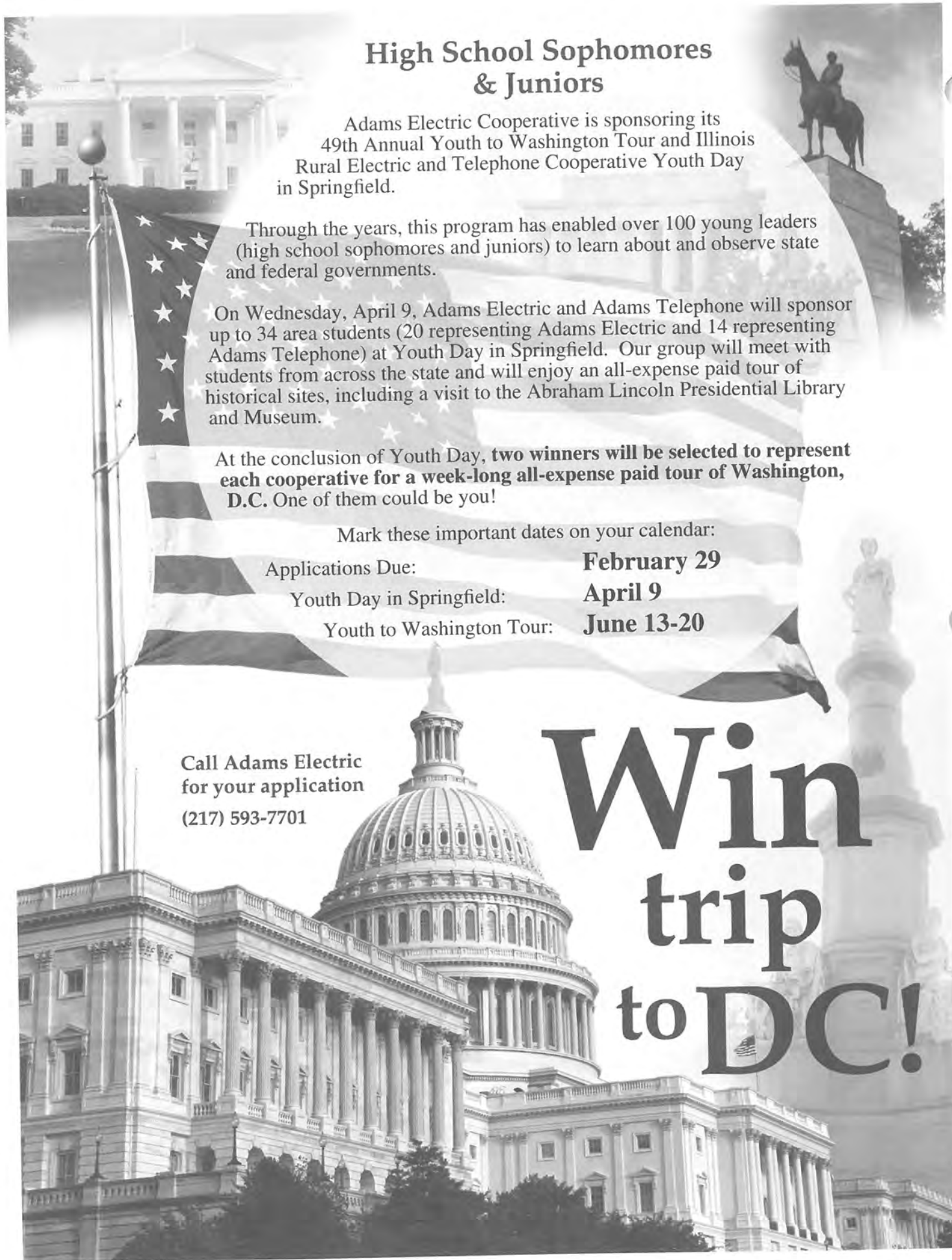
City: _____

Phone #: _____

I replaced ☐ incandescent
bulbs with CFLs.

Include this completed
pledge form with
your next electric
bill or mail to:
AEC's
CFL Challenge,
PO Box 247,
Camp Point, IL
62320

Deadline:
12/31/07



High School Sophomores & Juniors

Adams Electric Cooperative is sponsoring its
49th Annual Youth to Washington Tour and Illinois
Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day
in Springfield.

Through the years, this program has enabled over 100 young leaders
(high school sophomores and juniors) to learn about and observe state
and federal governments.

On Wednesday, April 9, Adams Electric and Adams Telephone will sponsor
up to 34 area students (20 representing Adams Electric and 14 representing
Adams Telephone) at Youth Day in Springfield. Our group will meet with
students from across the state and will enjoy an all-expense paid tour of
historical sites, including a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
and Museum.

At the conclusion of Youth Day, **two winners will be selected to represent
each cooperative for a week-long all-expense paid tour of Washington,
D.C.** One of them could be you!

Mark these important dates on your calendar:

Applications Due:

February 29

Youth Day in Springfield:

April 9

Youth to Washington Tour:

June 13-20

Call Adams Electric
for your application
(217) 593-7701

Win trip to DC!



To Illinois High School Seniors!

Looking for a way to pay for college?

Consider an IEC Memorial Scholarship

Seven scholarships for 2008 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Here's the basics:

- 4 scholarships available for the sons/daughters of Illinois cooperative members for any two or four year accredited college in the United States.
- 1 scholarship reserved for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative employee/director for any school in the United States.
- 2 scholarships available for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative member, employee, or director for an Illinois community college.

Each scholarship will be worth \$1250

Applicants will be judged on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay.

For more information or to receive an application by mail, contact Adams Electric Cooperative at (800) 232-4797. Or, send us an email at: ldotson@adams.net. **Deadline to enter: December 31, 2007**

Love your house
but hate your heating bills?

Winter

Rebate Special

Now through March 31, 2008,
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(from far left, clockwise) war memorial in Paloma, garde project in Schuyler County, reading program in Liberty, playground equipment in Rushville, stage renovation in Mendon, drug dog in Brown County, all-terrain wheelchair at Camp Callahan, fitness equipment for Quincy Junior High School.

It Just Makes "Cents"

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, our members voted in favor of implementing an innovative program called Penny Power. In this program, members have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. The "small change" is used to support local programs that benefit the communities served by Adams Electric Cooperative.

How do a few pennies make any difference to the community? A few pennies each month multiplied by every member involved in the program by every month of the year since the program's inception has brought \$78,273.29 to our local communities. That's what makes an impact!

Grant applications are reviewed quarterly by a committee comprised of Adams Electric Cooperative staff and Advisory Committee members. The goal of the Penny Power program is to provide assistance to as many organizations as possible. The committee must review each application and determine if the proposal meets the program's primary objective: community betterment. Applications are reviewed based on the following criteria:

a) Is there an established need for the program/project for which the grant is requested?

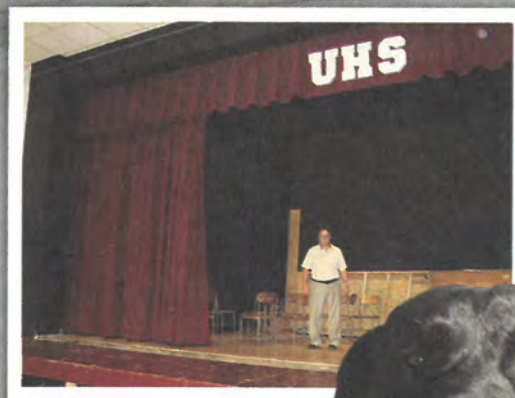
b) Is it appropriate for the committee to make a grant for the requested purpose, or are there more compatible sources of potential funding?

c) Are adequate resources available to effectively respond to this need?

d) Is it good for the surrounding area?

Grants have been awarded in nearly every town served by Adams Electric Cooperative. The majority of the towns not represented are only due to a lack of applications or programs.





As the awareness grows for Penny Power so will the coverage area.

Tremendous changes are taking place. The first grant for a drug dog was awarded at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Since then, grants have provided food for the needy, bus stop shelters for children, safer playground equipment, emergency response equipment and facilities for police and fire departments, medical equipment, school supplies, books for libraries and children, a war memorial, trees, paint and supplies to restore historic buildings, fitness equipment, toys for needy children, and more.

Thank you to all of our participating members; your pennies are making a difference!

For more information or to request a grant application, call Adams Electric Cooperative at (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797. The next deadline for grant applications is January 2, 2008.



Kathy's Fried Cabbage

Submitted by Kathy Grimsley

1 lg. onion
1 lg. green or red bell pepper
1 sm. can mushrooms (optional)
1-2 bags shredded cabbage
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/3 of a lg. bar of Velveeta, cubed
1 lb. lean ground beef

In a skillet, saute onions, peppers and mushrooms in one tablespoon of butter/margarine. Brown ground beef and drain. Set aside. Saute cabbage in 1-2 tablespoons butter till tender. Add onion, peppers, mushrooms and ground beef. Stir in Velveeta and black pepper. Great alone or with mashed potatoes.

Sugar Cookies

Submitted by Mrs. Glen Leerhoff

3/4 cup shortening (part oleo)
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 tsp. lemon flavoring
or 1 tsp. vanilla
2 3/4 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Mix thoroughly shortening, sugar, eggs and flavoring. Stir flour, baking powder, and salt together. Blend into shortening mixture. Chill at least one hour. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Roll dough 1/8 inch thick on a lightly floured board. Cut with cookie cutters. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 6-8 minutes or until cookies are a delicate golden color. Makes about four dozen, depending on size cutters. (I bake them on parchment paper.)

Chow Mein Noodle Candy

Submitted by Norma Jones

1 pkg. chocolate chips
1 pkg. butterscotch chips
1 lg. can chow mein noodles
1 cup nuts or coconut

Melt chocolate and butterscotch in double boiler. Add chow mein noodles and nuts or coconut. Drop on waxed paper with spoon.



Adams Electric Cooperative's Country Kitchen

Is your group or organization selling a cookbook? Send us the details and three sample recipes. We'll feature it for free (space permitting). Be sure to include a contact phone number. Have a favorite family recipe you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you! Mail recipes to: Attn: Laura, Adams Electric Cooperative, PO Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320
Or, save a stamp and send recipes with your electric bill!

Cheesy Pork Loaf

Submitted by Diana McCleary

1 1/2 lbs. 75-80% lean
ground pork
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/4 lb. sharp cheese, cut in 1/4
inch cubes
3/4 cups fine cracker crumbs
1/3 cup milk
1/4 cup chopped onion

Thoroughly mix all ingredients. Mold, press into 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 2 1/2 inch loaf pan; then turn into shallow baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 hours. For trim, cut 2 square cheese slices in half diagonally; overlap on loaf.

Cheese Ball

Submitted by Barb Elston

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
2-3 green onions (use green tops,
chopped)
3-4 slices dried beef, chopped
1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Mix ingredients in bowl. Make into a ball. Place in Saran Wrap and refrigerate. Serve with crackers.

Honey Pecan Triangles

Submitted by Janet Epp

2 tsp. plus 1/2 cup butter,
softened, divided
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 egg yolk
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
Topping:
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup honey
1/2 heavy whipping cream
4 cups chopped pecans

Line 13x9x2 baking pan with foil; butter foil with 2 teaspoons butter. In a mixing bowl, cream remaining butter with brown sugar. Add egg yolk; mix well. Gradually add flour. Press into prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, combine brown sugar, butter and honey. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in cream and pecans. Pour over crust. Bake for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Cool completely on wire rack. Use foil to lift bars out of pan and place on cutting board. Carefully remove foil. Cut into 24 bars; cut each in half diagonally. Yield: 4 dozen

Household Tips

Use a meat baster to place pancake batter onto a hot griddle. You'll have perfectly shaped pancakes every time.

To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.

When brewing coffee, always use cold, fresh water and clean utensils thoroughly. Oils that accumulate in the coffee pot will spoil the flavor.

Let it Snow!



You'll be toasty warm with a
WaterFurnace Geothermal Energy System!



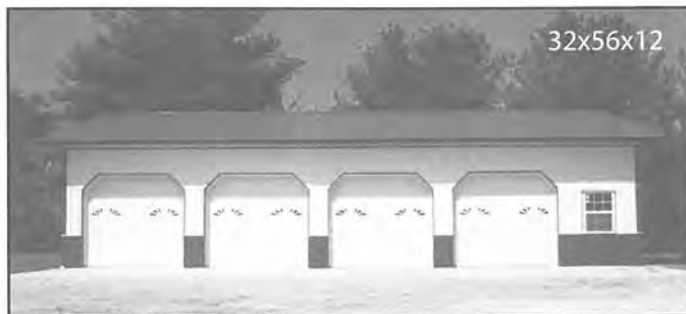
Many WaterFurnace owners realize savings up to 70% for heating, cooling and hot water. Geothermal units are very reliable and require less maintenance, plus they're proven to be the most environmentally friendly way to heat and cool your home!

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In The News...



Adams Electric Returning \$192,000 in Capital Credits

Members of cooperatives pay for service at cost and share in the annual margins by earning capital credits. In other types of businesses, such as investor-owned utilities, stockholders receive these funds in the form of dividends.

Capital credits from Adams Electric Cooperative are earned in proportion to the amount of electricity used. Distribution of capital credits is determined by the financial condition of the Cooperative with the goal of returning funds within a 25-30 year retirement cycle.

The Adams Electric Cooperative Board of Directors authorized the distribution of capital credits from 1980 of approximately \$192,000. All capital credits from 1939 through 1979 have been repaid. The entire amount of capital credits from 1939 through 1980 totaled over \$3,067,000.

Capital credit checks will be mailed in December. If you were a member of Adams Electric Cooperative in 1980 and your capital credit total that year was \$25 or more, you will receive a mailed refund check. If you are a current member and your amount was less than \$25, the amount will be credited to your January electric bill (December usage).

Adams Electric Cooperative offers the option of returning capital credits to the estates of deceased members. In this case, capital credits from 1981 through 2007 can be advanced on a seven percent (7%), 25-year discounted basis. This policy allows estates to be closed and is intended to prevent the confusion associated with future capital credit payments to the estate. If a member is deceased, and capital credits have not been retired, checks for 1980 will be mailed to the estate. For information on the settlement of capital credits for estates, call the office at 1-800-232-4797.

If you know a member of Adams Electric Cooperative from 1980 who has since moved off Cooperative lines, remind them to notify the Cooperative of their new location.

Local Linemen Place at Statewide Safety Rodeo

Pat Boylen of Camp Point, Jon Metz of Mt. Sterling and Mike Olson of Clayton, linemen at Adams Electric Cooperative, participated in the recent statewide Lineman's Safety Rodeo. The team placed third in the written test of lineman knowledge event.

The Tenth Annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways.

Several electric suppliers joined the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and LLCC in co-sponsoring the event.

Line personnel from ten Illinois electric cooperatives competed in five team events and two individual events.

Team events included hurt man rescue, egg climb (linemen climbing a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouths), single phase insulator change, overhead line switching and a test of lineman knowledge.

Penny Power Update

The Penny Power Grant Review Committee met on October 16th and approved seven grants. A total of \$7,800 was granted to the following groups:

- Quincy Area Habitat for Humanity - \$500 to be put towards the heating and air conditioning system in the house currently under construction in Mendon
- Quincy Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association - \$1,000 for helmets, earpieces, and a rescue blanket for the Emergency Response Team
- Brown County Ambulance Service - \$2,000 to help complete the new Emergency Services building in Mt. Sterling
- Toys for Tots - \$1,500 to purchase toys for needy children
- Camp Point Fire Protection District - \$1,000 to be used toward the purchase and installation of a new generator
- Brown County Food Basket - \$300 for lockable cabinets and new signs for their new location in Versailles
- Seymour High School - \$1,500 for replacing safety mats in the high school gymnasium

To date, the Penny Power program has awarded over \$78,000 in grants to area groups and organizations.



(l-r) Terry Lantz, American Legion member; Candi Maas, Toys for Tots coordinator; Luke Doellman, Commandant of Marine Corps Detachment; Tom Geise, American Legion member; Roger Knuffman, American Legion member; Bill Stalder, Manager of Marketing/Member Services from Adams Electric Cooperative.

Last Minute Tax Credits

In August 2005, President Bush signed into law, energy-efficiency tax credits for the purchase and installation of energy efficient appliances and products for homes and businesses. The home improvement credits are available for improvements "placed in service" before December 31, 2007. The tax credits will allow consumers to reduce their 2008 tax bills. Some of the products include energy-efficient windows, insulation, doors, roofs, heating and cooling equipment. For a complete list of products and

detailed information about energy-efficiency tax credits, consult your tax professional or visit www.ase.org/taxcredits or www.energytaxincentives.org.

Prairie State Energy Campus Advances to Full-Scale Construction

Officials of Adams Electric joined hundreds of area residents, community leaders and elected officials in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Prairie State Energy Campus on October 1. Prairie State is a 1,600 megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant to be located near Lively Grove, Illinois. Prairie State will be supplied Illinois coal by an adjacent coal mine in southern IL.

The project is expected to create 2,300 jobs at the peak of development. Units 1 and 2 are expected to be on line in the 2011 to 2012 timeframe.

Project ownership is fully subscribed, the necessary permits have been obtained, major equipment has been ordered and engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM) contractor Bechtel Power Corporation is commencing full-scale construction.

Prairie State is being developed with 21st century technologies, making it among the cleanest U.S. coal-fueled plants with emission rates that are approximately 80 percent lower than existing U.S. power plants and a carbon dioxide emission rate approximately 15 percent lower than the typical U.S. coal plant.

Prairie State will deliver low-cost energy to more than 1.7 million families. Adams Electric is part owner of the 130 MW (8.2%) share of Prairie Power, Inc.'s ownership in the Prairie State project.



Merry Christmas!

**from the
Board of Directors,
Officers & Staff**

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(217) 593-7737

News From Yesteryear

Reprinted from
Adams Electric Cooperative's
Adams Outlet, May 1972

Why Are Most Barns Red?

About nine out of ten old farm barns were red...and there's a reason. Here's how it all got started.

Barns weren't always painted red. In fact, in the earliest settlements it was considered "showy" and vulgar to paint the barn at all. But in the late 1700's, farmers began to use a homemade wood preservative to protect their barns.

Then came paint. The Virginians used lampblack — it sank into the wood and colored the barn grey. In the North, farmers mixed red iron oxide with skimmed milk and lime — and got a paint of sorts which hardened, and coated the barn like plastic. The mixture was a very red color, and so was the barn.

After a few years, red became the standard color...not because it was so pretty, but because it absorbed the sun's rays in the wintertime, and provided a little warmth for the animals inside the building. (Those pioneers didn't call it "environmental control" in those days, but already they were getting the connection between comfort and production!)

Once red got that firm foothold, it hung on year after year. As many of you who deal in this market are well aware, farmers, more so than any other breed of people, are reluctant to changes. So it was then with barns — Dad and Grandad had painted their barns red, so rather than shake up the neighbors the next time a new barn went up, it likewise was painted red.

That long-run role of red along the sideroads continued until just a few years ago when the radical changes that have come to agriculture really became widespread.

Steel and aluminum companies, plus package building firms, soon began offering color...and farmers began demanding it.



December & January

Calendar of Events



Avenue of Lights

Thanksgiving Day thru New Year's Day (6-9:30pm), Wavering/Moorman Park on North 36th St., Quincy. 2-mile animated light display. Cost: \$7/vehicle. (217) 222-7980

Operation Reindeer

Nov. 28-Dec. 2, Quincy Mall. Reindeer exhibit, craft corner, Santa's treats, gingerbread display Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Presented by Encore. (217) 222-1231

Scrooge, The Stingiest Man in Town

Nov. 29-Dec. 2 & Dec. 5-9, Oakley Lindsay Center, Qcy. (217) 222-3209

Journey to Bethlehem

Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1, 2, 6-9 (5:30-9pm), 48th & Maine, Quincy. Bring the entire family to this outdoor, live portrayal of the story of Christmas. Refreshments served. Free admission. (217) 224-6374

9th Annual Teen Gingerbread Extravaganza

Dec. 1 (2-4:30pm), Quincy Public Library at their 515 York location. Teens (grades 7-12) are challenged to create a spectacular holiday showpiece using graham crackers, candy and frosting. Competitive event judged in 3 categories: most creative, most unusual & most traditional. To register, call (217) 223-1309



Christmas at the Mill

Dec. 1, Prairie Mills Windmill, Golden. Visit www.goldenwindmill.org (217) 696-2514

St. Nicholas Day Eve Celebration

Dec. 5 (6-7pm), Quincy Museum. Children are invited to sit on the rug in front of the fireplace & hear stories of the REAL St. Nick. Children may bring a pair of shoes to leave for St. Nick to fill with treats. Shoes (& treats) may be picked up between 1 & 5pm on Thurs. Dec. 6. Admission: \$1/person.



Christmas Candlelight Tours

Dec. 8, 9, 28 & 29 (5-8pm), Gov. John Wood Mansion, 425 S. 12th, Qcy. Free tours. "Christmas Carols" as the theme. Museum store will also be open these nights. (217) 222-1835

'Tis The Season: Wreath Decorating

Dec. 8 (10am), Quincy Public Library at their 515 York location. Gloria Rodenberg, Stampin' Up demonstrator will show participants how to embellish their own store-bought wreaths with just a few scrapbooking tools. Learn how to stamp & decorate with paper & ribbon. Bring your own plain, undecorated wreaths to embellish. Free but reservations required. (217) 223-1309 x207

2nd Annual Holiday Ham Dinner

Dec. 9 (11am-2pm), Salem Lutheran Church of Mendon, 218 South State Road. Ham, "real" mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, homemade noodles, green beans, corn, rolls, homemade pies & cakes, coffee & iced tea. Carryouts available. Cost: \$7.50/adults, \$4/ages 6-12, 5 & under are free.

Christmas Celebration

Dec. 9 (1-5pm), Quincy Museum. Folks in Victorian attire will bake cookies in the kitchen & serve as hosts & hostesses. Enjoy musical entertainment & see Newcomb-Stillwell House decorated for the holidays & special nativity scene collections. Admission: \$3/adults, \$2 children 5 & up.

The Lye to Fat Table: A Soap Making Workshop

Jan. 19 (1-4pm), Quincy Public Library. Open to teens & adults. Learn basic soap making recipes to more complex scent adding techniques. To register, call (217) 223-1309

Mart Heinen Chili Cook-Off

Jan. 20 (11am-3pm), Quincy University Health & Fitness Center, 1800 College. (217) 228-5290

RV & Camping Show

Jan. 26 & 27 (Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 11am-5pm), Oakley-Lindsay Center, Qcy. Everything you need for leisure travel & camping. (217) 223-1000

Y101 Bridal Show

Jan. 26 (12-5pm), Quincy Holiday Inn, 201 S. 3rd.

FREE

Town-wide yard sales, concerts, car shows, craft shows, parades, festivals, plays, fairs, special sporting events, benefits, activities for children, bake sales, demonstrations, or something else? Tell us about it! Space permitting.

Event Listings

Deadlines:

February Events.....Jan 1

March Events.....Feb 1

April Events.....Mar 1

May Events.....April 1

June Events.....May 1

July Events.....June 1

Send event title, date(s), time(s), address, town, brief description, cost (if any), and contact phone #.

Mail to: Attn: Laura, Adams Electric, PO Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320 or Call: (800) 232-4797

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What is a vapor barrier and do I need one?

by Doug Rye, the "Doctor of Energy Efficiency"
- the King of Caulk and Talk

Never a week goes by that I don't receive at least one call asking about vapor barriers. The question has been around so long that I sometimes just assume that everyone knows the answer, but that is not the case. So here is the answer: As always, let me keep it as simple as possible. A vapor barrier, as related to house construction, is anything that retards or prevents the moisture in the air from penetrating the adjacent surface.

Consider these facts:

Fact No. 1 – Warm air can retain more moisture than cold air. (Now you know why summer is so humid.)

Fact No. 2 – There are two forces – temperature and humidity levels – that cause the moisture in the air to move. If you place a damp wash cloth on the bathtub, it will probably dry within a few hours. The moisture moved because the room air was drier than the wash cloth. If you place that damp wash cloth outside on a 25-degree day, it will freeze dry because the water in the cloth is drawn out of the cloth and into the air by the lower temperature and lower humidity.

Fact No. 3 – Vapor barriers are not needed in a Doug Rye house.

Are you with me thus far? This really isn't rocket surgery (one of my favorite sayings).

Let's take a look at a house wall. Let's say it is 80 degrees outside and a constant 75 degrees inside the house. Outdoor relative humidity is 60 percent and indoor relative humidity is 50 percent. Not much difference in either, so the moisture in the air is just hanging around.

Then comes winter and the outdoor temperature is 30 degrees and the outdoor relative humidity is 40 percent. Since the moisture in the house wants to move toward a colder temperature and lower humidity, the moisture moves toward the outside. It starts moving toward any cold surface and any air cracks it can find to get outside. Bingo. It hits a cold window and it turns to "sweat," I mean, condensation. The glass is a great vapor barrier and the moisture simply can't go any farther.

This is exactly like a cold glass of iced tea sitting in a warm room. I already know what your mother said: "Don't put that on the coffee table..." And you know the rest. Have you noticed that the condensation stops as the iced tea warms to room temperature? Or have you noticed that you can prevent condensation by pouring the iced tea into an insulated foam cup? If there is no cold surface, there is no condensation.

We have been told for many years that walls in houses and buildings need a vapor barrier and that it should be installed toward the warm side of the wall. I have asked many times this question – "What if my house is in Miami, Fla., and it is warmer outside most of the time than it is on the inside of the house?" Should I place the vapor barrier on the outside of the house? I never received an answer, but I know what it is. Houses in the South really don't need a vapor barrier at all because typically there are not great differences between indoor and outdoor temperature and humidity levels, even in the winter. And houses in the North really don't need a vapor barrier if cellulose or foam insulation is used, which will prevent the wall or cavity from ever being cold. By the way, two coats of latex paint is a pretty good vapor barrier.

Most code officials and inspectors now understand the principle. However, you should check the codes in your area prior to any construction. And remember, "somebody" does care about you. See you next month.

Listen to Doug Rye's live radio program "Home Remedies" on WTAD every Saturday morning from 9:06 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org. Source: Rural Arkansas Magazine

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Rules for Entering

Ornaments must be handmade by the entrant and prepared for hanging on the Cooperative's Christmas tree in the lobby. There is no theme; just be creative!

Prize: One overall winner will be chosen from all entries received. Entries will be judged on creativity.

Winner will receive a \$30 gift card to Wal-Mart.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all Adams Electric Cooperative members including their immediate family members (any age). One entry per person. Employees of Adams Electric Cooperative are not eligible.

Instructions for submitting entry: Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number on a sheet of paper separate from your entry. (Entries will be numbered for judging.) Entries will not be returned.

Please drop off your entry at Adams Electric Cooperative, located at 700 E. Wood St. or mail your entry to:
Ornament Contest
Adams Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 247
Camp Point, IL 62320

Deadline: Entries must be received no later than Friday, December 7, 2007. Winner will be announced Friday, December 14.