



# ANNUAL MEETING OVERVIEW



To adhere to COVID-caused public safety guidelines regarding large gatherings, the WIEC annual meeting was set up in the cooperative parking lot with chairs spaced apart to ensure social distancing. Above, Secretary Engstrom addresses the “crowd.”

The annual meeting was an abbreviated, business-only meeting with no election being held. President Orion Mann welcomed the members who were able to attend and Secretary/Treasurer Lee Engstrom read the Meeting Notice, Proof of Due Mailing, and noted that the minutes for last year’s meeting had been handed out. The manager gave an abbreviated report of the year’s activities and the performance of the cooperative. All members received a mailing with the financial report and items of interest.

Of particular note was the help that we had in receiving \$600,000 in disaster aid and \$2,000,000 in budgetary aid. All of the folks who helped us were recognized during the meeting and have been recognized both on our website and in this publication. Of particular note were our local state and federal representatives who were instrumental in our time of need. Governor Scott Walker started the ball rolling by declaring a disaster thus making the initial \$600K possible. Representative Joel Kitchens and Senator André Jacque lobbied two governors to include us in the budget and with the help of their peers on their



side of the aisle were able to keep us in the biennial budget. Governor Evers included us in the budget and kept us in the legislature's version.

Congressman Mike Gallagher was the first federal legislator in Wisconsin to co-sponsor the RURAL Act, federal legislation designed to protect our tax exempt status. He helped lobby his federal cohorts to sign on as well and

by the time we were done (with the help of NRECA, WECA, and cooperative members all over the country) this act achieved super majority status. Unfortunately the leadership in the house refused to bring it to the floor and Mike was helpful in getting it included in a continuous spending resolution that was eventually signed into law. Our little community had great support from its

elected officials and we recognized them with plaques.

All of this activity aside, the cooperative performed well in 2019 and we are on track for good performance in 2020 as well. Hopefully next year's annual meeting will be better attended, but the outdoor venue seemed to work well and weather dependent, we may have started a new tradition.



Over the past year these elected officials were recognized with plaques of appreciation for their support. Clockwise, starting above left: Governor Scott Walker, Congressman Mike Gallagher, Representative Joel Kitchens, Senator André Jacque, and Governor Tony Evers.



# WASHINGTON ISLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

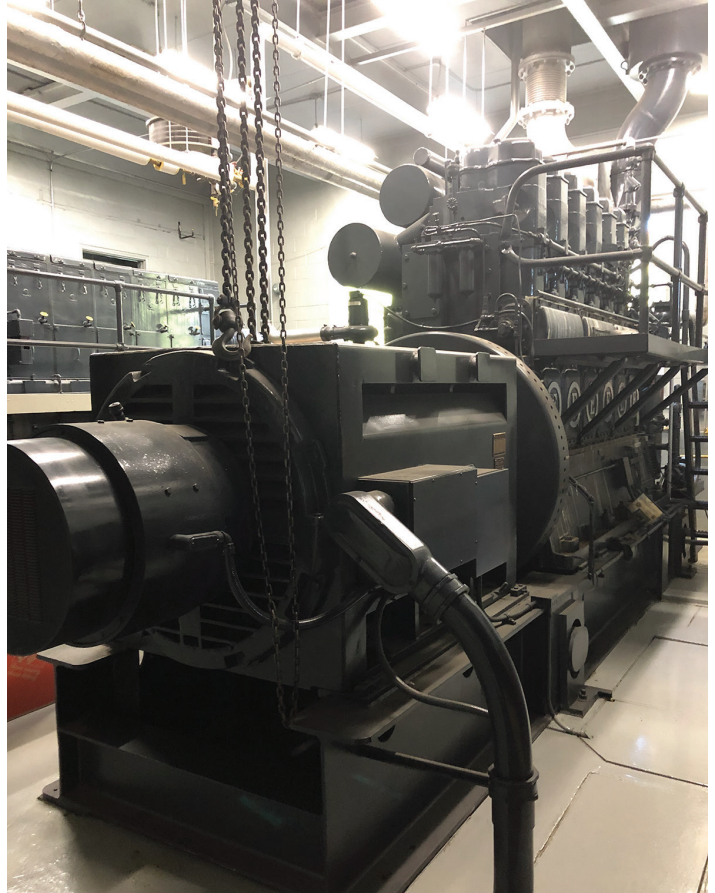
We are continuing our perusal of board meeting minutes throughout the years.

**1971** The cooperative began the bidding process to obtain additional generating capacity. The failure and subsequent repair of Engine #5 showed that we were on the edge of our capacity requirements. A loan amounting to \$376,000 was approved from REA and the bid from the Enterprise Division of Delaval Turbine was approved for a 900KW generating plant. It appears that the engine/generator was originally slated to be part of the nation-building efforts in Viet Nam. Modifications were required in order for the engine to have direct connected brushless exciter and the contracts were signed. Cooper Bessemer was contracted to handle switch gear work subject to the approval of REA.

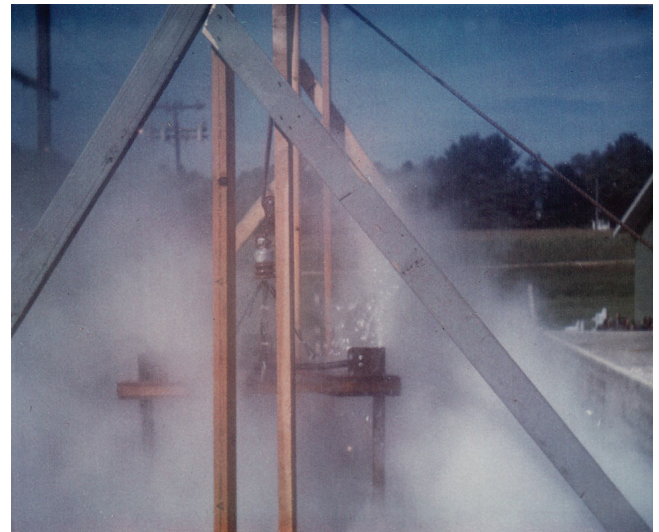
The cooperative purchased a riding lawn mower from Jack Cornell.

**1972** REA rejected the Cooper Bessemer bid for switch gear installation because of issues with a consequential damages clause included in the bid. This forced the Cooperative to seek new bids and Westinghouse Electric Services was awarded the switchgear installation bid in the amount of \$64,823. Delaval Turbine notified the cooperative that it was not going to be able to meet the deadline for installing the specified exciter. The board moved to find them in default of the contract and specified penalties were applied. This delayed the expected installation of Generator #6 until July.

The cooperative hired Larry Young as lineman this year as Leonard Jorgenson notified the board that he intended to retire in 1973.



Engine #6



Load testing Engine #6 before putting it on line.



## WIND STORM DOWNS TREES

The cooperative has been lucky this year, with only isolated outages for the most part. We were forced to go on generators on only one occasion so far and that was due to some trees across WPS lines in Ellison Bay behind the fire department. We had one wind storm that created numerous messes for us and kept us hopping from one outage to the other, and during that storm the insulator on a cutout on the pole where we transition from overhead to underground at the ballpark failed. This failure could have been due to a previous lightning strike that finally opened up when the wind began moving the lines, but the result was pretty spectacular (and dangerous) and forced us to shut down all three phases going south in order to replace the cutout. Tyler McGrane took the photos below of the large arcing that occurred before we could get the power shut down.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our members for their patience during outages and to also remind them to not only report downed lines, but to stay away from them and not to drive over them as the results could be deadly.



## PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES

Here are a few more entries in the WIEC Island Summer Photo Contest. The winners will be announced in the November Issue.



Above:  
Kayakers  
in Detroit  
Harbor by  
Dick Purinton.  
Right:  
Summer  
Brats by  
Andy Austin



An un-  
dated  
Amer-  
ican  
Legion  
Fish Boil  
by Pam  
Goodlet

### Robert Cornell, Manager

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