

MONTHLY NEWS



Connecting our members with exceptional communication solutions with ease and integrity.

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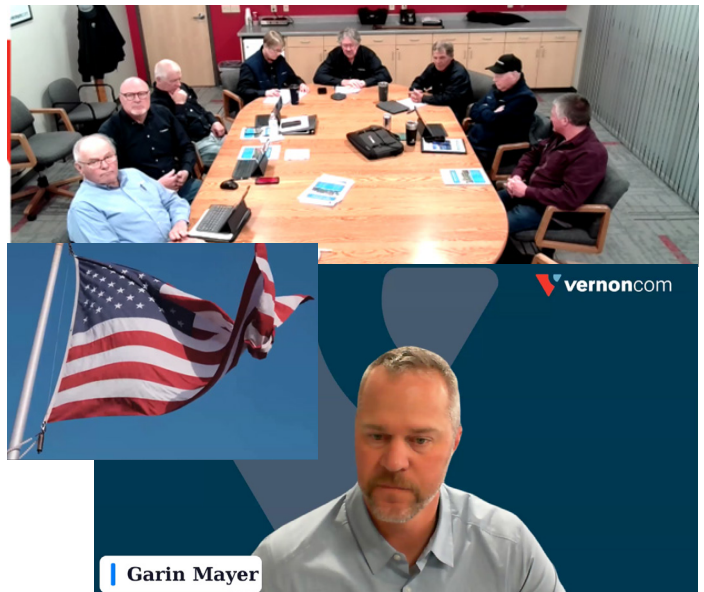
2025 Scholarship Recipients

Director Retires After 39 Years



Brad Gabrielson has decided to step down from the VernonCom Board of Directors after 39 years of service! Brad represented District 5 (La Farge & Cashton) and he has been Board president for 11 years. He began his service to the cooperative in 1986 and has been serving on the board ever since. Brad has been instrumental in making decisions and is also a strong advocate for the cooperative. He has seen many changes throughout his career, some of which include: going from a telephone cooperative to an internet and TV service provider, serving our members with fiber optics and getting that service to all of our members. We would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" and extend our gratitude for helping make the cooperative what it is today.

2025 Annual Meeting



VernonCom held its virtual Annual Meeting on April 15, 2025 at 1:00 pm. There were 145 members in attendance. Anyone who viewed the meeting received a \$25.00 credit on their VernonCom billing statement.

The meeting began with the "National Anthem", and was called to order by Board President, Brad Gabrielson. Garin Mayer, CEO of the Cooperative made opening remarks, and although a motion was made to bypass the reading of the 2024 minutes, the report was available for anyone to read. The 2024 financial report was given by Scott Haakenson, Controller. Garin Mayer reported on the progress of the cooperative and announced the director election results for 2025. Greg Lawton was elected for District 3 (La Farge/Cashton). Dan Nelson District 7 (Westby City) was the incumbent for that district and will keep his seat. They will both serve for 3 year terms. Jana Pedretti, Member Relations Manager announced the 2025 scholarship recipients as seen on page 3.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting and we look forward to serving you in 2025.

From The CEO

Greetings and welcome to May! If you took the time to join us for our annual meeting of the Cooperative on April 15th, I want to thank you. If you weren't able to join us, I do hope you'll consider joining next year. Since we have moved to hosting these meetings virtually, we

have seen an increase in attendance. This is encouraging to us as we hope to provide as many members with as much information as possible. If you're bummed that we aren't seeing you in person, there is good news on the horizon! We will be joining forces with Vernon Electric



Cooperative to host a member appreciation picnic. Tentative plans are to host this in mid June, in Readstown. We'll be there to provide picnic fare, but more importantly to meet our members in person and enjoy some quality time in the community.

Finally, this seems like an annual reminder, but I'll say it again. With spring in the air, the desire to burn fields and ditches grows. Please be aware that when you're burning ditches, VernonCom may have facilities within that ditch line, and if you aren't paying attention, you may burn them. You are responsible for the restoration costs when this type of incident occurs, and depending on what is burnt, those costs can quickly climb to thousands of dollars. Please take a quick walk down the ditch you're planning on burning. Look for a vertical post with an orange marker identifying that we have facilities in that location. Even if you don't find that, look for a handhole lid that may have been overgrown with weeds or dead grass. Be cautious not to let fire get too close to it, or linger near it. Thank you in advance, both on our behalf and your neighbors, whose services may be interrupted if you damage the hand hole!



Call 811 or (800) 242-8511 if you plan to do any kind of digging.

Streaming Class

VernonCom is offering another "How to Stream" class on May 8, 2025 at 1:30 pm in the VernonCom office in Westby. Members will get an education on how to Stream Live TV. Network Engineer, Jason Rider, will instruct the class and answer any questions people may have. Because of limited seating, accommodations are limited to 20 members. Go to www.vernoncom to register.

Burn With Caution

With the onset of burn season, it's crucial to thoroughly inspect ditches for any hand holes and maintain constant supervision of all burns. A recent incident in April, where a hand hole in a ditch was damaged, serves as a costly reminder of the importance of these precautions.



5 Year Service Award



Kevin Karwoski (pictured left) received an award for completing five years of service with the cooperative. Kevin began his employment working as a "Locator" and is now using his skills in the Installation and Repair

department. We congratulate Kevin and we look forward to many more years of his valuable service.

2025 Scholarship Recipients

VernonCom has a long-standing tradition of awarding scholarships to students furthering their education after high school. We are pleased to announce that ten students have been selected to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship towards their college expenses. We extend our sincere congratulations and wish them success in their academic endeavors.



Rachel Conaway
Viroqua, H.S.



Erin Gluch
Westby, H.S.



Madelyn Montgomery
Kickapoo, H.S.



Ben Roethel
Westby, H.S.



Hazel Skarlupka
De Soto, H.S.



Grace Wenthold
Bangor, H.S.



Courtney Johnson
Westby, H.S.



Mateya Kaduc
Cashton, H.S.



Samantha Kleba
Cashton, H.S.



Sam Miller
Kickapoo, H.S.

Save The Date!

Cooperative Principle #6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

We're partnering with Vernon Electric for a summer picnic and you're invited!

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025



**Place:
Readstown Park**

**Time:
11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Business Spotlight



This month we are highlighting C&C Landscaping, a cherished local business based in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Driven by a love for the outdoors and a passion for having each day look different, owner Chad Williams utilized his background as a machine operator to launch the business. Whether it's a small residential yard or a large commercial property, C&C Landscaping brings quality craftsmanship and precision to every job.

C&C Landscaping offers a wide range of services including excavating, lawn care, snow removal, and hard-scape installations such as retaining walls and patio pavers. They cater to a variety of project sizes, offering excavating services up to an hour's drive and landscaping services up to two hours away. With each project being led by a certified foreman and backed by a dedicated team, C&C prides itself on the expertise and quality it offers.

Like many businesses, C&C Landscaping has faced challenges since the pandemic, especially with finding qualified workers in their rural community. Despite these hurdles, Chad remains committed to providing quality service to customers and fostering strong relationships with suppliers across the Midwest. Looking ahead, C&C is focused on continuing to deliver exceptional results and expanding its team to better serve its valued customers.

C&C Landscaping relies on VernonCom's internet for nearly every aspect of their business operations. The company's website and inquiry system, which receives 3-4 inquiries a day, is a crucial component in staying connected with customers. From managing their computer systems to supporting their day-to-day tasks, VernonCom's internet is essential for keeping everything running smoothly.

C&C Landscaping's business hours vary by season. Tentative hours are: April 1-June 30 open 7 days a week Monday-Friday 8 AM to 6 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM to 2 PM. Hours are subject to change.

KnowB4

If you're planning a trip soon, there are some things you should consider. For starters, is that dirt cheap flight to Tokyo too good to be true? Probably so, especially when the booking site also offers a boatload of other deals at shocking, unbeatable prices - who does that? A scam artist looking to take your money, that's who. For this reason, you need to learn how to sniff out these "too good to be true" offers. To help you out, here are some tips:

- **Go official:** Book a trip directly with an airline or hotel, or through a reputable agent/tour operator.
- **Do your research:** Do a thorough online search to ensure the company is legitimate. Are there very few pictures of the business' property, or unfavorable reviews? If they're an offender, other people may have posted their negative experience to warn others.
- **Stay safe online:** If sent a deal via social media or email, be very cautious and think before you click! The link may direct you to a malicious site. Make sure to pay special attention to the website name and domain. You may notice small changes in the name or domain - such as going from .com to .ru, which can direct you to a completely different company.
- **Pay safe:** Don't pay in cash, via bank transfer (MoneyWise, Western Union), or virtual currencies like Bitcoin. These payment methods are hard to trace and are non-refundable! Instead, pay with a credit card. Also, check that the website uses a padlock icon (https) on the address bar, indicating it's secure.
- **Check the small print:** Check that the website offers terms and conditions, a refund policy, and a privacy policy.
- **Use your instincts:** If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Report it: Keep all of the evidence and report it to your local authorities right away.



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Lobby Hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm (M-F)
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Call (855) 940-3938



(Have your account number)
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