

# NEWS

March 2008

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Official publication of



[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)

## Attend the Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 2nd

The Annual Meeting for members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will take place on **Wednesday, April 2, at the Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe.** Voting polls will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. for members who have not returned their ballots by mail. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. A roast beef dinner will follow the meeting.

This year, directors in Districts 1, 2 and 3 are up for election. Members from those districts will receive ballots and candidate profiles in the mail. A schedule of Annual Meeting events is on page 3.



Each member in attendance will receive a LED flashlight (does not need batteries). This gift promotes energy efficiency and new LED (light-emitting diode) technology.

Attendance and early bird prizes, as well as a grand prize will be awarded. Before and

after the business meeting our employees will be available to answer questions at our DIRECTV, WildBlue, Load Management, and Heartland Security booths. Blood pressure checks will also be available.

Come and join us April 2.

### Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met January 30, and February 13, to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 1, 2, and 3. The Nominating Committee is required to select two candidates to be on the ballot for each district.

Additional candidates are only added to the ballot when a member presents a petition to the Cooperative that is signed by at least 20 members from their district.

The persons selected by the Nominating Committee for this year's election are:

**District 1: Oria Brinkmeier and Albert Teubert**  
**District 2: Dale Peters and Timothy B. Ulrich**  
**District 3: Roger Karstens and Cheryl Beilke**

See director profiles on page 8.

### Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 13

Members residing in Districts 1, 2, and 3 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 13. Members in voting districts will also receive a director candidate profile sheet, notice of annual meeting, and a registration/lunch ticket. If you choose to return your ballot by mail, please do not include any payments in your voting envelope.



Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 13.



### Shocked by how cold it was in February?

You might be just as shocked when you look at your next electric bill, if during the month of February you were using those extra winter appliances. For February 2008, the average daily temperature was 5.2 degrees colder than the February historical average temperature.

Check the list. How many of these things did you have plugged in?

- Car or truck tank heater
- Livestock water tank heater
- Dog or cat water bowl
- Heated pet mat
- Heat lamp or heat tape
- Heated birdbath
- Tractor or skid loader tank heater
- Space heater
- Furnace in the shop
- Electric blanket

Furnace fans run significantly more when the temperatures are sub-zero than during a mild month. Whether you heat with a wood stove, gas or oil furnace or electric forced air furnace, they will all have more run time in a cold month and cost you more kilowatt-hours of energy use. The good news is that March is guaranteed to be warmer than February and energy bills will be on the decline.

## Glencoe Expo Winner

### Mrs. Laverna Meyer of Glencoe

was the winner of the door prize at the Co-op's booth at the Glencoe Area Business Expo Feb. 16-17.

**She received a \$25 gift certificate.**

Please visit

[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)

Later this month, members will see new features at McLeod Cooperative Power's web site. The site should be easier to navigate. It will have more downloadable forms which will be more convenient. Members will now have the ability to view their current electric bill and usage history. And best of all, members will now be able to go to the Co-op site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) to get urgent messages regarding events, outages and news pertinent to our Cooperative members.

The site will still have the same important features like checking to see if it is a load control day, coming events and DIRECTV program packages.

## Reservations being accepted for Coal Creek Tour



Reservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an education and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, North Dakota Heritage Center, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center. Possible additions to this year's tour are the new ethanol plant constructed adjacent to the Coal Creek Generating Plant and a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Cost for students 10-18 years of age who share a room with their parents or grandparents is \$100 per person. This makes it an affordable mini-vacation. Motor coach transportation, accommodations at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and most meals are included. The hotel offers an indoor pool, water slide, hot tub and exercise room. The hotel is located across the street from a shopping mall. So there is plenty to do during free time.

The group leaves the Cooperative about 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10 and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. Members going on the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a substantial amount of walking. The tour is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

If you have never been on this tour, we encourage you to sign up. If you have been on the tour before, we will accept your reservation. However, people who have never been to Coal Creek will be given preference. Call the Cooperative to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check. Call 1-800-494-6272 ext. 521 to sign up.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Coal Creek Tour, June 10-12, 2008

Name and Age of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: *McLeod Cooperative Power Assn.  
1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336.*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1  
Oria Brinkmeier, *Lester Prairie*

District 2  
Dale Peters, *Brownston*

District 3  
Roger Karstens, *Hutchinson*

District 4  
Curtis Rossow, *Buffalo Lake*

District 5  
Allan Duesterhoeft, *Hutchinson*

District 6  
Lester Ranzau,  
Vice-President, *Glencoe*

District 7  
Bill Polchow, *Silver Lake*

District 8  
Doug Kirtz,  
President, *Hector*

District 9  
Gerald Roepke, *New Germany*

### MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by  
McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
PO Box 70  
1231 Ford Ave.  
Glencoe, MN 55336

General Manager: Kris Ingenthron  
Editor: Sue Pawelk

*The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is the official member publication of McLeod Cooperative Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk, editor, at the above address.*

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Phone: 320-864-3148  
1-800-494-6272**

**24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685  
Fax: 320-864-4850**

**Web site: [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)**

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166



## Apply by April 15 for line worker scholarships

**S**tudents accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2008-09 school term may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award up to four \$500 scholarships for local students.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County (or are a resident of one of those four counties) and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply. Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 15, 2008.

### McLeod Cooperative Power Association ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

April 2, 2008

Registration Begins at Pla-Mor Ballroom .....	8:30 a.m.
"Early Bird" Prizes .....	9:45 a.m.
Meeting Called to Order .....	10:00 a.m.
Invocation .....	Sue Pawelk , Customer Service Manager
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Sue Pawelk, Customer Service Manager
Welcome .....	Doug Kirtz, President
Establish a Quorum .....	Doug Kirtz President, Dale E. Peters, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting .....	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting .....	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Dist 1, 2 & 3.....	Doug Kirtz, President
Introduction of Directors Districts 4-9 .....	Doug Kirtz, President
Closing of Ballots .....	10:15 a.m.
Financial Report .....	Randall Ahrndt, Office Manager
Manager's Report .....	Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
President's Report.....	Doug Kirtz, President
Operation Round Up Donations .....	Operation Round Up Trust Board
Introduction of Nominating Committee .....	Doug Kirtz, President
Election Report .....	Doug Kirtz, President
Great River Energy Report .....	Lester Ranzau, Vice- President
Unfinished Business.....	Doug Kirtz, President
New Business .....	Doug Kirtz, President
Adjournment	

Drawing for Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize –  
HD Color TV and DIRECTV System

Table Prayer .....	Allan Duesterhoeft, Director
Lunch following Annual Meeting .....	Pla-Mor Ballroom, Glencoe

McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70  
Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

## Were you wondering why water heaters and Dual Fuel were controlled on mild days?

**I**n late February and early March, Unit 2 of Coal Creek Station, our power plant in North Dakota, had to be taken off line for an unplanned outage caused by a hydrogen leak. For about one week, the unit was down for repairs. During this time, Great River Energy controlled Dual Fuel and peak shave water heaters each evening from approximately 5-9 p.m. even though temperatures outside were fairly mild. This was done to avoid the cost of purchasing power from the market, which is more expensive than the power we generate ourselves at Coal Creek Station. Although load management systems are utilized on the coldest winter nights and hottest summer days to reduce peak demand, they are also operated on those rare occasions when a power plant goes down to keep members from paying unnecessary costs for replacement power.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### Carbon Dioxide

**A**pproximately 186 billion tons of carbon dioxide are emitted into the atmosphere each year. Of this total over 96 percent is from natural sources:

- **90 billion tons are emitted by the oceans**
- **Another 90 billion tons are emitted by sources such as volcanoes and decaying plants**
- **Only 6 billion tons are the result of human activity**

Most carbon dioxide is eventually locked up in ocean sediments as phytoplankton die and the carbon in their bodies falls to the ocean floor.

Carbon dioxide from all coal burning worldwide comprises only 0.013 percent of the greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere.

#### Did you know:

Carbon dioxide is invisible. The puffs of clouds you see from coal-fired power plants are just that— clouds. Power plants use steam to drive the turbines which generate electricity. Steam must be cooled and condensed to water to reuse it to make more steam. The fat, curvy towers that look like they are belching white smoke are really only emitting pure water vapor. They are in effect making clouds. The actual exhaust emissions come from the smokestack, which is the tall skinny tower. Because modern technology makes it possible to remove much of the fly ash and sulfur before releasing smokestack gases to the air, smokestack emissions today are often almost invisible.

*Courtesy of www.geocraft.com*

# Flat tire leads to WildBlue

Six months ago WildBlue Technician Chris Larson was driving his WildBlue van north of Litchfield when he felt the tire go flat.

"I called the Co-op and asked them what to do," said Larson. "I was really stuck out there in the middle of no-where." Customer service gave him the phone number of Steve Kraushaar of Crow River Tire, which was literally just down the road.

"He came right out, filled my tire with air, then I drove it to his shop where he replaced the tire right then," Larson said. "I was very impressed."

Kraushaar made a comment about Larson's WildBlue Co-op van and started asking questions.

"Maybe I should look into that," Kraushaar said, adding that he'd been operating his business with dial-up service, which was getting more and more difficult. Kraushaar formerly owned Valley Tire Center in Eden Valley, and has operated his business pretty much the same way for the past 18 years.

"I'd say that in the last 3-4 years, more ordering and pricing has been done online," Kraushaar said. "You really need high-speed internet these days."

Larson installed the ValuePak WildBlue system. Then he worked with Kraushaar to help update his very old computer equipment to maximize results. Larson then installed a WildBlue optimizer to speed things up even more.



Steve Kraushaar (l) & Chris Larson near where Larson installed the WildBlue satellite that allows high-speed internet even in the "middle of no-where."

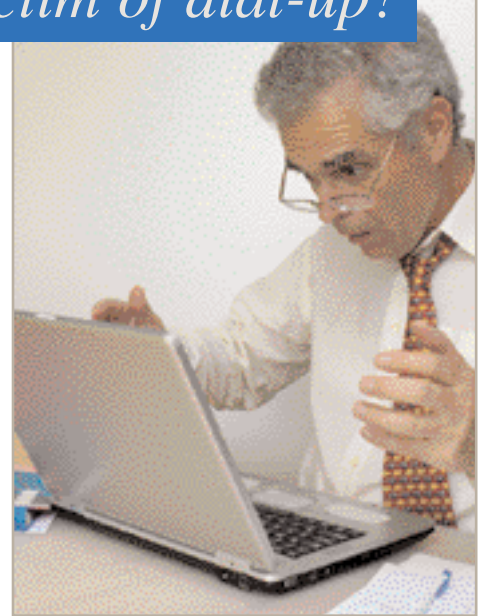
"Now the internet is as fast as my computer system will allow it to be," Kraushaar said. "It's a lot faster than dial-up."

His new WildBlue system is just in the nick of time.

"I've been in this location going into my third year and it's gotten too busy to fish. That's not all bad."

## Are you a victim of dial-up?

*What's more frustrating than waiting forever for a download? Waiting forever for a download and having the internet drop out before it's done!*



**With WildBlue high-speed internet, you get:**

- Speeds up to 10 times faster than dial-up
- An instant, always-on connection – it's ready when you are
- Availability virtually anywhere you live



**Call your Cooperative for specific plans, prices and any special offers available.**

*Your life is waiting. Don't waste a minute of it!*

**Get up to speed with WildBlue**

**Meeker Cooperative**  
Light and Power Association

**(320) 693-3231 or 800-232-6257**



**320-864-3148 or 800-494-MCPA**

# Spring Projects

## remember to call before you dig

**GOPHER STATE ONE CALL**



**Y**ou may be planning a summer project now, such as building a deck or planting trees or shrubs. They're great summertime projects, but your rural electric Cooperative urges you to be careful. Many sites are on top of underground utility lines. Cutting an underground cable or pipeline can be very dangerous and costly, so call Gopher State One Call before you dig. It's the law!

Gopher State One Call is the clearinghouse to determine the location of all underground utility lines in Minnesota. After you call Gopher State, they notify underground utility operators with facilities in the area. Locators are dispatched to mark where these underground cables and pipelines are located.

But this all takes time, so be sure to call Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1166 at least 48 hours before you dig, excluding weekends, holidays and emergencies. Calls are taken between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Gopher State One Call will ask specific questions, so please have the following information available when you call:

- Type of work to be done.
- Location of the work site, including township, range, section and quarter section coordinates. This is the property's legal description.
- Estimated time needed to complete work.

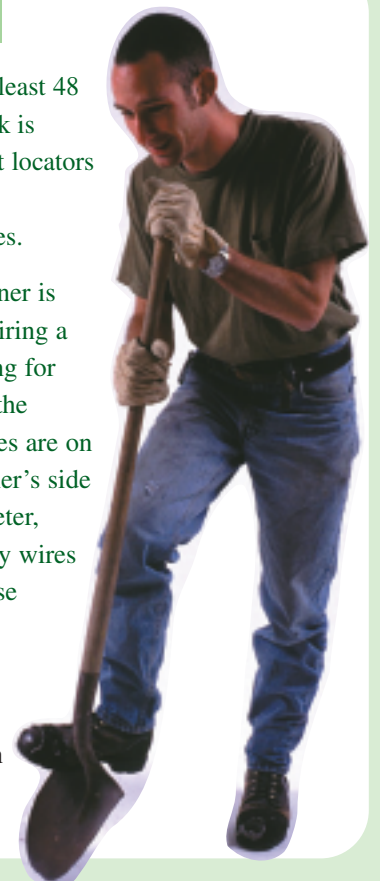
Property owners should understand their full responsibility when digging.

- The property owner or excavating company is responsible for calling Gopher State One Call at

800-252-1166 at least 48 hours before work is to be done so that locators can mark their company's utilities.

- The property owner is responsible for hiring a locator and paying for locating costs if the underground wires are on the property owner's side of the electric meter, such as secondary wires running to a house or buildings.

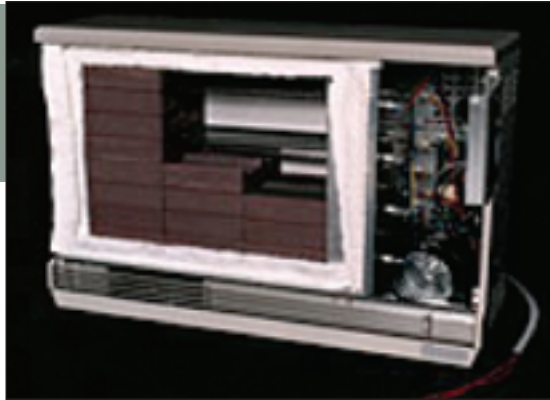
Remember, call 800-252-1166 before putting one shovel in the ground!



# Is it time to upgrade your dual fuel system? There's a solution for every situation.

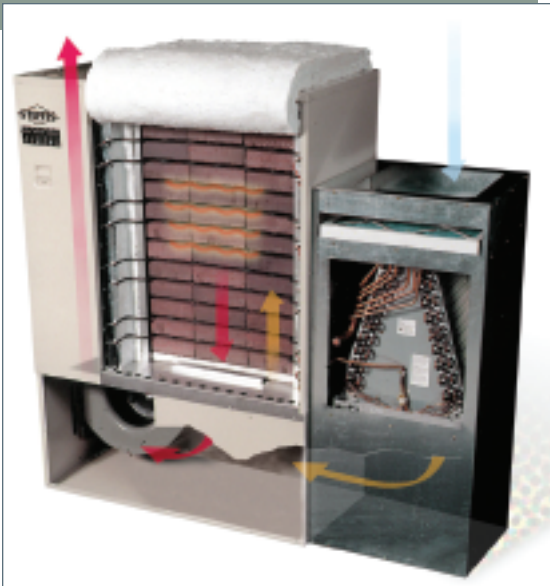
### Back-up system for baseboard or other electric systems with no ductwork

**A** room-sized storage heating unit (like the Steffes model above), heats specially-designed ceramic bricks during the night, when electricity isn't controlled. Then that heat is available all day. Simply turn the unit's thermostat down to 68 degrees or so. During a control period when your primary heat is off, the storage heat unit will kick in when the temp dips to 68 degrees. Although it may seem redundant to have two heating



systems "plugged in," any heat the room unit gives off will mean your primary heating system has to work less. You shouldn't use more electricity than your primary unit uses by itself.

### Back-up system for homes with ductwork or water radiant heat, but no gas



**I**f you prefer not to use gas or other fossil fuel as a back-up, the central storage furnace (like the Steffes model above) is your perfect solution. During the night when there is no control, the Steffes furnace heats specially-designed ceramic bricks which give off heat either through ductwork or by heating water which is distributed through radiant floors. This unit works as a stand-alone heating system if you find it necessary to upgrade your equipment.

### Dual fuel systems for homes with fossil fuel furnace



**I**f you currently don't have a dual fuel system and would like to qualify for our nearly half-price electric rate, you have some options. The two most popular units for turning your fossil fuel furnace into a "dual fuel" system are a plenum heater and an air source heat pump. Equipment needs vary depending on size of home, etc. Speak with one of our Energy Experts and see how easy it can be to switch to an energy-conscious, money-saving dual fuel system.

### Demand for electricity to increase 40 percent over the next 25 years

**A**ccording to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation — which oversees reliability of the bulk power system covering the United States and most of Canada — demand for electricity will increase over the next 10 years by 18 percent, although the electric industry's capacity to generate power will increase by only 8.5 percent.

A longer-term forecast by the U.S. Department of Energy predicts that demand for electricity will increase by 40 percent over the next 25 years.

"All of this presents a huge challenge for electric utilities, especially electric cooperatives," said Jon Brekke, vice president, member services, Great River Energy. "We have an obligation to keep the lights on and prices affordable at a time when the costs of fuel and raw materials to build new generation are skyrocketing."

From GreatRiver News, January 2008

### Catching the wind to use for power

**P**eter Hark and his wife, Mary Jo Cristofaro-Hark, expect to generate much of their own power by (installing a wind turbine to) harness the breeze, but they estimate it could be 25 years before they recoup the \$35,000 it cost to erect the 115-foot turbine and a set of solar panels on their 10-acre hobby farm in northern Rice County.

Roughly 7,000 Americans bought small wind systems in 2006, and the industry has grown by 14 to 25 percent a year since 1990, according to the American Wind Energy Association. In Minnesota, Wind Turbine Industries, a Prior Lake manufacturer, has seen annual sales of its 20-kilowatt turbines -- which generate enough electricity for two or three homes -- go from half a dozen a decade ago to nearly 50 in 2007.

Small wind turbines struggle to produce electricity as cheaply as their 250-foot, 2-megawatt cousins. A commercial wind plant can generate electricity for less than a nickel a kilowatt-hour, but that price is more like 10 or 11 cents for small wind, according to the association.

Star Tribune

Call today for more information about Energy Management

## Employees and directors honored for years of service

**T**he Co-op recently honored its employees with landmark employment anniversaries.

Congratulations to these long-time employees.

### Five years:

Gregg Nistler, engineering employee  
Ben George, line dept. employee

### Ten years:

Patty Robb, billing employee  
Deb Goettl, billing employee

### Fifteen years:

Gerald Roepke, director

### Twenty years:

Darrel Beste, engineering employee

The Cooperative has a very low employee turn over rate. Our 32 employees have over 423 years of combined service to McLeod Co-op Power.



## How to get your rebate for a high-efficiency air conditioner or heat pump

*If you purchase a high-efficiency central cooling system with a SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rating) of 13 or greater, AND it was installed by a registered contractor, you are entitled to a rebate.*

### High Efficiency Rebates

13 SEER.....	\$30
14 SEER.....	\$180
15 SEER.....	\$280
16 SEER.....	\$330

**Additional \$150 available for heat pumps on the Dual Fuel program**



Split air conditioning systems or mini/splits do not qualify for these central system rebates. A high-efficiency split system qualifies for the same \$35 rebate as a window air conditioner because it's designed to cool only one or two rooms.

Your contractor must be registered with the HVAC Reduction service. If he is not registered there will be no rebate. Contractors who have passed the Reduction exam, confirming their

knowledge of proper installation methods for high-efficiency cooling systems, are listed on the service's web site at [www.hvacreduction.net](http://www.hvacreduction.net). You may access the list of all contractors in Minnesota certified to do rebate-eligible installations by going to the Cooperative's web site. Go to [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Click on LINKS on the left margin. Select Search for certified contractors from list. If you are not internet savvy, just call us at McLeod Co-op Power and we can

provide you with the names of contractors in your area that are registered. The list is updated daily as contractors receive certification.

All registered contractors will complete the rebate forms as they do the installation and forward them to the Cooperative. We will send the check to you, the member. There is nothing the consumer needs to fill out for the central system high-efficiency rebates.

## New bucket truck arrives



The newest truck added to the fleet has a working height of 54 feet. The boom can reach out 36 feet at 90 degrees.

They are building them larger each year.



In recent years, the manufacturers of bucket trucks have been making them taller and wider than they were just a few years ago. To accommodate any new trucks, the Cooperative has had to replace exterior garage doors to get the vehicles inside. Even with the new Schweiss bi-fold doors, it is still a tight fit for the line trucks.

# The role of coal

*Baseload generation is crucial to future energy supply.*

**W**hile renewable energy sources such as wind are increasing, coal remains the backbone of energy generation for the region and the nation. Coal is the most abundant and economical generation source available to us for baseload generation. It is a natural resource that does not come from the Middle East but from our neighbors in North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Wind has its place, but it is limited by inconsistent wind speeds. Coal does not suffer such limitations. It is abundant, inexpensive and reliable.

## COAL HAS PROVEN ITSELF:

- One-half of the nation's electricity is provided by coal, with even higher percentages in the Upper Midwest. Coal provides 90 percent of the electricity used in North Dakota and 66 percent in Minnesota.
- Nationally, coal has enough proven reserves to last 250 years at the current rate of usage. North Dakota alone has 25 billion tons of economically recoverable reserves, enough to serve the state's power plants for 800 years at current consumption levels, according to the North Dakota Geological Society.

- Thirty million tons of lignite is produced annually at the state's four surface mines. About 80 percent is turned into electricity and 20 percent is used by the Great Plains Synfuels plant.

## THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Coal-generated power is affordable, partly because North Dakota's coal remains in the state and the plants are built adjacent to mines. Having Falkirk Mine next to Coal Creek Station Generating Plant is a prime example of the low transportation costs with a mine-mouth facility.

While the cost of gasoline, fuel oil, and natural gas have soared, electricity prices from coal have remained fairly stable. Residents of North Dakota and Minnesota enjoy electricity rates that are roughly half of what residents of California and New York pay.

## RELIABILITY MAY BE COAL'S BEST QUALITY

Coal is available 24/7 every day of the year. Technology allows batteries to be only so big. Solar power is good when the sun is shining. Wind energy is good when the wind blows. Often on the hottest days of the year, when demand for energy is highest, the wind is not blowing. But coal is still working — generating plenty of electricity to power our homes



and businesses and air conditioners. Coal-based electricity also adds to the nation's energy security. Coal is a domestic resource. Its supply is not disrupted by problems in the Middle East.

## COAL GENERATION IS CLEANER THAN YOU THINK

Have you ever been to Coal Creek Station? A tour of North Dakota's coal country confirms clean air and beautiful countryside abundant with wildlife and good farmland.

There is no smoky or sooty haze where we generate electricity from coal. Our power plants meet the most stringent air quality standards. And although the use of coal to



generate electricity almost tripled between 1970 and 2000, the coal based electricity sector reduced emissions by one-third. Minnesota and North Dakota are two of only 12 states in the nation that meet all ambient air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Parts of this article are courtesy of the Minnkota Messenger.*

## Things you can do at night to conserve on electrical demand during the day

1. Start your dishwasher when you are going to bed.
2. If you have a newer washing machine with a time-delay feature, you can set your clothes washer to operate 3, 6 or, 9 hours after you put the clothes in. Have it operate during the middle of the night.
3. Make sure your water heater is on the Co-op's Water Storage Program, where it will heat water from approximately 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
4. Use a timer on plug-in car or truck tank heaters. Set the timer to turn on only 3-4 hours before you need the car or so it operates overnight only.

## Marathon Water Heaters

The water heater with a lifetime warranty from leaking, plus a six year warranty on elements and thermostats. It is the highest efficiency, R-25 insulated electric water heater on the market. Durable exterior tank that won't rust. No anode rods.

Available in 50-gallon, 85-gallon and 105-gallon capacities. For sale to electric members and the general public. Available at your Cooperative.



# Profiles of director candidates for District 1, 2 & 3

The Nominating Committee selected the names that will appear on the ballot for elections of directors in District 1, 2, and 3. The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each district to appear on the ballot in each district.

## District 1 includes:

**Winsted, Bergen, and Helen Townships in McLeod County and Victor Township in Wright County**



**Oria Brinkmeier**

Oria is the incumbent director in District 1. He grew up on a farm in Winsted Township. Upon retiring from teaching in 1990, Oria and his wife, Myrna, moved back to the family farm between Winsted and Lester Prairie. For the past 18 years he has been running the 160 acre farm; growing corn, beans and alfalfa, and raising beef cattle. He enjoys marketing his crops and reading. Oria is a graduate of Lester Prairie High School and Concordia College. After serving in the U.S. Army, Oria also attended the University of Minnesota. For most of his life Oria was an educator. He taught junior high and high school and was later a college instructor.

Oria has three grown children who live out-of-state. His wife, Myrna, passed away in 2004. He now has fewer family obligations and more time to devote to being a serious board member. He is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie and is a church board member there.

Oria would like to see the Cooperative keep its business locally based. He believes a small electric co-op must be very frugal in spending its resources and must keep abreast of conditions in a quickly changing industry. Oria thinks his contribution to the board has been to use common sense when helping make decisions.



**Albert Teubert**

Albert was born and raised in Bergen Township and has lived on his current farmsite since 1963. He and his wife Mary Ann have six grown children and eight grandchildren. Albert farms

265 acres of corn, soy beans and alfalfa. He also raises beef cattle and hogs, works part-time at the Hutchinson Sales Barn and part-time helping with the hay auction near New Germany. When he is not working, he likes to go to auctions for fun.

Albert is a graduate of Glencoe High School and served in the U.S. Army from 1958-60. He has been a supervisor on the Bergen Township Board for six years and currently serves as their chairman. He served on the nominating committee for MCPA in 2002. He has served on the board of trustees and the cemetery board for Bethel Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie, where he is an active member. He has served as chairman of the Bergen Township Community Chest and served on the board of the MR&S Community Action Council (when it served clients in McLeod, Renville and Sibley Counties).

## District 2 includes:

**Hassen Valley, Sumter, and Penn Townships in McLeod County**



**Dale E. Peters**

Dale is the incumbent director for District 2 and currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the board. Dale has been a lifetime resident of Sumter Township, except for the time he served in the United States Navy. The Peters are active members of St. John's Church of Hassen Valley Township. Dale is a member of the American Legion Post #96, the Hutchinson Elks Lodge, the Brownton Rod & Gun Club, and a former member of the Sumter Township Board.

Dale and his wife, LeaEtte, have two sons. John is an area manager for John Deere and resides in Houston, TX. James is a realtor for Keller Williams in Houston, TX. In the past, Dale has been a cash crop farmer, raising and selling certified seed. He has also held employment at Cash Wise Foods, Hutchinson Technology Inc, and Wal-Mart. Dale and LeaEtte have recently retired. Dale believes this will allow him more flexibility in attending various meetings and continue as a devoted board member.

Dale believes the co-op is extremely fortunate to have Great River Energy as a very proactive power supplier. His goal on the board continues to be providing consumers with reliable service for the least possible cost. MCPA has an excellent staff and employees to support this goal. He will convey questions to the board on your behalf and provide follow up.



**Timothy B. Ulrich**

Tim Ulrich is a director candidate for District 2. He and his wife, Sheila, and their family, reside in Hassen Valley Township on the farm where Tim grew up. The Ulrichs have three children, Carlie, Claire, and Connor. Tim enjoys time with his family at their lake home,

golfing and hunting. Ulrich is a twenty-three year employee of Citizens Bank & Trust Co. in Hutchinson. He joined the Bank as an ag lender and after a series of promotions was elected president/COO in 2005 and serves as secretary of the board of directors.

A native of Hutchinson, Tim is a graduate of Hutchinson High School and the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Blandin Community Leadership Program. Tim currently serves as president of the Hutchinson Economic Development Authority, chairman of the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitor's Bureau, president of the Hutchinson Community Foundation, and chairman of the McLeod County Fair Commission. He is also a former trustee of the Southwest Initiative Foundation, and a member of the McLeod County Fair Board.

When asked what he could contribute to the MCPA Board, Tim replied, "I believe my experience as a business leader would allow me to be an effective board member. My financial experience would be beneficial when the board has to make business decisions." On energy issues, Tim would like to see the Co-op partner with organizations to effectively bring alternate energy options to area residents.

## District 3 includes:

**Acoma and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth and Collinwood Townships in Meeker County.**



**Cheryl E. Beilke**

Cheryl and her husband Roger have lived in Hutchinson Township for 27 years. They have two grown children — Erin, who works for Cargill in Elk River and Matt, a recent college graduate. Cheryl's husband, Roger, recently retired from Ag Systems in Hutchinson. Cheryl has been with 3M Hutchinson for 39 years, holding various production and leadership positions. She is currently responsible for the site's quality and environmental registrations and their supporting systems of internal auditing, documentation and quality metrology. She plans to retire at the end of 2008 after completing 40 years with 3M.

Cheryl grew up as a "farming kid," graduated from High School in St. James, Minnesota and continued her education at St. Cloud State, St. Thomas and Crown College. She holds certifications in her field of expertise through the American Society of Quality and RABQSA training workshops.

Cheryl currently serves as vice-chairperson on the Adult Training and Habilitation Board of Directors; is secretary on the board of directors for Ed Plus (an organization that focuses on children in Costa Rica, supplying them with items necessary to attend school) and is an active member of the Agribusiness Committee of the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor's Bureau (HACCCVB). Cheryl served on the board of directors of the HACCCVB from 1999-2005 and was board chairperson in 2002. She is also a graduate of the Blandin Community Leadership Program and was honored as Hutchinson's Woman of the Year in 2000. She and her husband have been active members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church and School where she served on the board of the Christian Day School and as chairperson of the board. She also served as church council secretary for many years and has been involved in various educational and job shadowing programs within the Hutchinson community. Cheryl describes herself as a "big picture" thinker who makes data driven decisions. She fills her spare time with reading and traveling. When asked why she would like to be a director, Cheryl replied, "It is good to have diversity on boards, both in gender and generations. It would be nice to have representation for all of the female landowners and members on the board as well." Cheryl is a proponent of renewable energy within financial capabilities and is eager to learn more about McLeod Co-op Power and be part of planning its future by building on the strengths of its past.



**Roger Karstens**

Roger Karstens, the incumbent director of District 3, was the first MCPA director to earn the title of a certified director. "Over the years I have initiated innovative ideas, including creating a scholarship program to recruit lineworkers," said Roger. "I am a dedicated and experienced spokesman presenting your concerns and questions to the Board."

Roger was employed at 3M for 34 years, retiring in 1990. He and his wife, Shirley, have four married children — Chris, Dirk, Connie, and Ryan, along with nine grandchildren. He has been involved with 4-H and FFA through the years. Roger enjoys hunting, fishing, showing sheep and is an avid sports fan. He's a military veteran and is an American Legion member. He served nine years on the McLeod County Planning Advisory Commission. He is on the board of Crow River Mutual Insurance Co. He served as president of the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association and as a regional director of the American Sheep Industry.

Roger stated, "I believe that with my experience and background in several organizations, I am well qualified to serve as your director. Legislative actions along with increases in material costs are producing higher electric rates. As your director I will work on your behalf to limit these increases," said Roger.