

# NEWS

March 2009

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

## Attend the Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 15th

The Annual Meeting for members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will take place on **Wednesday, April 15** at the **Hutchinson Event Center**, 105 Hwy. 15 South (Plaza 15) in Hutchinson. 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 turkey dinner will follow the meeting.

This year, directors in Districts 4, 5 and 6 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 6.

Attendance and early bird prizes, as well as two grand prizes 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 15th.

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## Who says that houses are not moving these days?



A house was being moved under electrical wires March 3, at the intersection of County Roads 2 and 5, north of Silver Lake.

Although properties may not be moving a lot with the current economy, there are still houses moving. In the wee hours of Feb. 26, the Cooperative assisted with disconnecting lines for a house move in Carver County, north of New Germany.

On March 2 and 3, the Cooperative assisted on another house move from Bergen Township, south of Lester Prairie, to north of Silver Lake. After the house cleared our service area, it continued north to a destination near Howard Lake.

This second house move (pictured above) included 20 single phase crossings and three multi-phase crossings. The Cooperative did some line switching to keep electricity flowing to as many members as possible. Several crews were needed to get the house through line crossings along it's approximately eight and a half mile journey. All expenses for house moves are paid by the home's owner or house mover.

## Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met February 9 and February 23 to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 4, 5, and 6. 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 4: Curtis Rossow and Willard Karl**

**District 5: Allan Duesterhoeft and Oather Martin**

**District 6: Lester Ranzau and Wayne Grams**

See director profiles on page 8.

## Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 27

Members residing in Districts 4, 5 and 6 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 27. 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. Ballots returned by mail must be received on or before April 14, 2009.



Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 27.

**McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, April 10**

The Cooperative has a 24 hour payment drop box at the entry to the Glencoe office. Members may drop off electric or DIRECTV payments any time. Payments will be processed the next business day.

In case of emergency or outage, members may call 1-800-927-5685 anytime 24 hours a day. DIRECTV after-hours assistance is available by calling 1-800-927-5414.



**Manager's Message —**

by **Kris Ingenthron, General Manager**  
**McLeod Cooperative Power Association**



**How the Cooperative Difference Affects Your Rates**

**A**t McLeod Cooperative Power Association the people who receive electricity are not just customers, they are members of our Cooperative. Members enjoy certain rights that customers don't have with other electric providers.

For instance, as a member of McLeod Cooperative Power, you can choose to run for a board seat or become a member of a nominating committee. Because you can vote in the annual election for the board candidates of your choice, our board is composed of people who live and work in the very territory that McLeod Cooperative Power Association serves.

Many people, however, don't understand the various ways their membership in a cooperative affects their rates. At McLeod Cooperative Power Association, our rates are based on two main components — the actual cost of the wholesale power we buy from the company that generates electricity, and the cost for us to get that power to you.

Our power provider, Great River Energy (which also is a cooperative), sets wholesale power costs. McLeod Cooperative Power has a seat on the Great River Energy board of directors. As a cooperative, Great River Energy works hard to keep rates low, while providing a stable supply of electricity.

The second component — the cost for us to get power to you — consists of all other operational costs, including the cost for poles and wires, the cost and maintenance of trucks and buildings, actual employee costs like

wages and benefits, and the costs associated with maintaining records, like the printing and mailing of bills.

One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you; we don't have stockholders expecting a big quarterly dividend. We are a not-for-profit enterprise, which means we're working only to provide you with economical, reliable service.

We do collect some money, which is figured into your rates, that is used for capital improvements. It helps us to build many of the expensive improvements we are required to provide. Any money collected in excess of those required funds is allocated to each customer account as patronage capital.

Patronage capital, or capital credits as they are often called, represents your investment in the cooperative and all its assets. While capital credits are not returned every year, the board of directors that you elect considers at least once a year whether or not we can return some of these investment dollars to our members. So, when figuring our overall rates, customers need to consider patronage capital in the quotient.

Returning capital credits to members is a practice unique to the cooperative form of business and represents one of the cooperative principles — members' economic participation. And perhaps best of all, the benefits of this economic participation accrues to our community.

**Members can begin Operation Round Up® donations any time of year**

*Members helping members and members helping their community = Operation Round Up*

The few cents that our members give by rounding up their electric bill can multiply to dollars for local charities that build up our whole community. It is easy to sign up, painless to participate in, and a great opportunity for your small donations to make a big difference.

The average member donates \$6.00 a year to the program. Many worthwhile charities benefit from the proceeds of the trust each year. If you do not already participate, please fill out the form and return it to the Co-op. We will get you set up as an Operation Round Up participant.

**Yes,** sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| District 1<br>Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i> | District 6<br>Lester Ranzau,<br>Vice-President, <i>Glencoe</i> |
| District 2<br>Dale Peters, <i>Brownston</i>          | District 7<br>Bill Polchow, <i>Silver Lake</i>                 |
| District 3<br>Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i>      | District 8<br>Doug Kirtz,<br>President, <i>Hector</i>          |
| District 4<br>Curtis Rossow, <i>Buffalo Lake</i>     | District 9<br>Gerald Roepke, <i>New Germany</i>                |
| District 5<br>Allan Duesterhoeft, <i>Hutchinson</i>  |  |

**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**

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166



**Standing L to R: Randy Bussler, Melvin Dahlke, William Esser, Charles Kubesh, and Glen Kurth. Seated L to R: LeRoy Karg, Dean Duesterhoeft and Wilbert Becker.**

## Nominating Committee prepared slate of director candidates for 2009

**M**embers of the Nominating Committee from Districts 4, 5, and 6 met on February 9 and 23 to select candidates to run for director elections in their respective districts. Serving on this year's nominating committee were: District 4: William Esser of Hector, Charles Kubesh of Buffalo Lake and Glen Kurth of Stewart. District 5: Wilbert Becker of Brownton, LeRoy Karg of Hutchinson and Dean Duesterhoeft of Hutchinson. District 6: Randy Bussler of Glencoe and Melvin Dahlke of Arlington. As allowed by the by-laws, Nominating Committee member Wayne Grams resigned from the committee so his name could be placed on the ballot as a candidate from District 6.

## Get your career off of the ground



(Photo courtesy of MSCTC in Wadena).

**S**tudents accepted into line school for this fall may apply to MCPA for a \$500 line worker scholarship before April 15, 2009. Call the Cooperative for eligibility requirements. Applications are available by calling the office at 1-800-494-6272.

High school students who enjoy working outdoors and doing mechanical work with their hands may want to explore line work. Due to the high demand for line worker jobs and limited number of class spots at the three Minnesota line schools, students should apply early. They should probably visit the school and apply during their junior year of high school. Power line worker programs are currently offered at Dakota Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota West at Jackson and Minnesota State Technical College in Wadena.

## MCPA participates in funeral of lineman killed during storm restoration

**M**CPA lineman Ryan Schuette and Ben George volunteered their time to attend the funeral of a fellow Minnesota lineman killed while restoring power following an ice storm in Kentucky. A Connexus Energy line worker died February 12 from severe head injuries he sustained after a fatal fall from a utility pole in Paducah, Kentucky. Lineman from across Minnesota lined up their trucks outside of the church at his funeral in St. Paul on February 20.

On February 10, at approximately 6:00 p.m., a utility pole snapped and Andy Reichwein, age 35, fell nearly 40 feet and was hit by a transformer that was on top of the pole. The Andover (Anoka County) resident was among 13 Connexus

Energy employees who had arrived in Kentucky earlier that day to help the local electric cooperative restore power after the devastating ice storms in late January.

Reichwein was employed with Connexus Energy for the past eight years. He is survived by his wife and four-year-old daughter. A memorial fund for the family has been set up through the Klein Bank. This is the method used by McLeod Cooperative Power employees to contribute several hundred dollars to Andy's family.

The Andrew Reichwein Family Fund  
c/o Klein Bank  
3070 Coon Rapids Boulevard  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433



**Thirty-seven aerial bucket trucks from power companies throughout the state lined Summit Avenue in St. Paul on Feb. 20 at House of Hope Presbyterian Church to pay last respects to Andy Reichwein, who was killed repairing downed power lines felled by an ice storm in Kentucky.**

Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation (JPEC), where Reichwein was working when the accident occurred, has also established a memorial fund for the Reichwein's daughter.

Connexus Energy is the largest cooperative in Minnesota providing electricity to over 121,000 homes and businesses in portions of Anoka, Chisago, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Sherburne, and Washington counties.



**Andy Reichwein**

## Economic Stimulus package includes money for energy efficiency and conservation programs



**T**he American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 extends, expands, and simplifies the federal income tax credits for homeowners who make energy efficiency home improvements.

The law extends the consumer tax benefits; expands the available tax credit from \$500 to \$1,500; and increases the tax credit to 30 percent of the cost of each qualified energy efficiency improvement.

The law also removes the cap on geothermal heat pumps and solar water heaters through 2016.

By tripling the lifetime tax

credit to \$1,500, homeowners who already received a \$500 tax credit for installing energy efficient products in their home can apply for an additional \$1,000 in tax credits for making additional energy efficiency improvements in 2009.

To receive tax credits, products must meet the highest efficiency rating and you must receive a Manufacturer Certification Statement verifying that it qualifies for the tax credit. A receipt for the purchase of the product should be kept on file.

Improvements made in 2009 will be claimed on your 2009 taxes (filed by April 15, 2010).

Use IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version) which will be available late 2009 or early 2010.

Note: If you are building a new home, you can qualify for the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps, photovoltaics, solar water heaters, small wind systems and fuel cells, but not the tax credits for windows, doors, insulation, roofs, HVAC, or non-solar water heaters. These items qualify as improvements in the home's envelope for the reduction of energy use and are intended for existing homes only.

For more questions, contact your tax preparer.

## Tax Credits available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

**A residential total lifetime tax credit of \$1,500 is available to homeowners who make energy conservation and efficiency improvements to their homes.**

<u>Product/Improvement Residential</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>	<u>Incentive</u>	<u>Years</u>
Air Source Heat Pumps/Central A/C	SEER 16	30% of cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Water heaters			Through 2010
Electric (heat pump models only)	2.0 EF	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	
Gas and oil	.82 EF	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	
Gas/oil Furnace	95 AFUE	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Gas/oil Boiler	90 AFUE	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Biomass Stoves	75% efficiency	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Envelope improvements (Insulation, duct sealing and infiltration reduction, exterior doors, windows and skylights)	Meet 2009 IECC	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Refrigerators (depending on brand, efficiency)		\$75 to \$200	Through 2010
Clothes Washers (depending on brand, efficiency)		\$125 to \$250	Through 2010
Dishwashers (depending on brand, efficiency)		\$45 to \$75	Through 2010
Fuel cells (residential)		30% efficiency, 30% up to \$1,000/5kW	Through 2016
Solar Photovoltaic/Solar Water Heating		30% cost of installation	Through 2016
On-site small wind	100 kW capacity/less	30% cost of installation	Through 2016
Geothermal heat pumps	Energy Star Specs	30% cost of installation	Through 2016
<b>Commercial Buildings</b>			
Whole building	50% savings	Deduction of \$1.80/sq. ft.	Through 2013
HVAC or envelope	50% savings	Deduction of .60/sq.ft. per system	Through 2013
Lighting	25-50% savings	Sliding scale (\$.30/sq.ft. for 25% savings)	
Commercial fuel cells	30% efficiency	30% up to \$3,000/kW	Through 2016

Key: AFUE = annual fuel utilization efficiency. CEE = consortium for Energy Efficiency. EF = energy factor. IECC = International Energy Conservation Code. kW = kilowatt. SEER = seasonal energy efficiency ratio. **For further information, to see which products qualify for tax credits and for information about tax credits for energy efficient vehicles, go to [www.energytaxincentives.org](http://www.energytaxincentives.org).**

Source: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy for the Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP)

# Stimulus package includes money to help weatherize low-income homes across the country



*Investing in making homes more secure from the outside elements yields major benefits. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says weatherization (the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home) can reduce heating bills by up to 32 percent!*

since their income guidelines were already higher than other states.

In Minnesota, income guidelines allow any household earning at or below 50% of state median income to be eligible for weatherization assistance. Currently, more than 400,000 families qualify for assistance, according to Jeremy de Fiebre, weatherization program manager, although previous funding only allowed them to serve 4,000 families per year.

“With these new resources, we anticipate being able to serve 16,000 to 20,000 households a year,” de Fiebre said.

The Weatherization Assistance Program plan calls for participants to receive a professional energy consultation, an analysis of energy

bills, a blower-door test to locate air leaks and advice on how to be more efficient.

Professional help will be dispatched to make energy upgrades like insulating walls and roofs, sealing air leaks and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems.

The process to weatherize a home through the program takes about two days with an average cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000. Since different homes have different needs, the stimulus bill allows up to \$6,500 to be spent on each home.

To apply for assistance, contact the Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198, Phone: 651-297-2545, Fax: 651-297-7891.

As a result of the addition of \$5 billion into the weatherization of low income housing, the DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program is expanding with a goal of weatherizing one million low-income homes per year across the country. Income levels were changed due to this legislation, although Minnesota will most likely not follow those guidelines,

## INDUSTRY News

### Vermont could host nation’s first “smart grid” system

The chief executive of Vermont’s bulk power transmission utility says the state could have the nation’s first “smart” electric grid, letting customers know hour-to-hour how much power they’re using and where it originates.

John Donleavy, president and CEO of Vermont Electric Power Co. Inc., tells Vermont lawmakers that the state would be an excellent candidate to become the pilot for the sort of smart grid being touted by the Obama administration.

A key step toward such an outcome is merging electric transmission and telecommunication technologies so that messages about energy can be sent along with the energy itself.

Donleavy says the utility has been installing fiber-optic communication lines along with its recent power line construction projects.

-Associated Press

### Climate debate puts nuclear back on table

No nuclear plants have been proposed in Minnesota, but a move to undo the state law that effectively bans them may get a hearing next month.

What’s changed in Minnesota and the nation since the 1994 Prairie Island debate around expanding its radioactive waste storage, said Rick Lancaster of Great River Energy, is the concern about climate change and the need to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. As a vice president of the electric cooperative, Lancaster said nuclear needs to be back on the table as an option, in addition to more energy conservation and wind power.

Terry Pickens, Xcel’s director of nuclear regulatory policy, said that the utility is focused on extending the licenses and expanding the amount of power produced at its Prairie Island and Monticello nuclear plants. Currently 17 companies have filed applications with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission to build 26 new plants.

Some Minnesotans say nuclear has huge drawbacks, including that while it has less carbon emissions, it has “highly toxic dangerous waste” and that most of the concerns about nuclear power debated 15 years ago still have not been solved.

- Star Tribune

**Let us keep watch while it rains**

Wish you knew when your sump pump wasn’t keeping up? Wish you had known that your sump pump quit before seeing water all over your basement floor?

A Heartland Security system with a water sensor can alert the homeowner when water levels get to a pre-determined level. If you think security systems are just to keep burglars out, think again. Security systems fitted with special sensors can help detect smoke, water and temperature changes within your home.

**Sign up for a Heartland Security system by April 30, 2009 and receive a FREE water sensor!\***

**Heartland Security**  
1-888-264-6380

\* Certain restrictions apply. Can not be combined with other offers.

Members qualify for 10% off installation costs and monthly monitoring.

### Minnesota 2009 Income Eligibility for Assistance

Household Size	Annual Income
1	\$21,184
2	\$27,702
3	\$34,220
4	\$40,738
5	\$47,256
6	\$53,774
7	\$54,996
8	\$56,219
9	\$57,441
10	\$58,663

# The cause of rising costs

Utilities across the country are seeing increases in the cost of generating and transmitting electricity. As you've likely noticed on your bills, Great River Energy, McLeod Cooperative Power's wholesale electricity provider, is no exception. Despite increases, Great River Energy's rates remain the fifth lowest among the 20 largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the country, and the organization is taking major steps to slow the rise in power costs. Rising costs are an industry trend — and one that won't be ending soon.

Over the past 10 years, the number of member/consumers served by Great River Energy's member cooperatives has grown by more than 100,000. During that same timeframe, the annual average electricity consumption per consumer increased by nearly 25 percent. Because more people are using more power, a lot of work is being done to ensure the power supply can meet consumers' needs. "We've been in a building phase," said Jon Brekke, member services vice president, Great River Energy. "We've had to build for environmental upgrades, increased generating capacity and transmission."

Additional expenses come from the rising cost of fuels such as coal and a host of new regulations set by the state and federal government. These include a renewable energy standard and stringent environmental controls. "Complying with these new regulations also adds costs that affect our rate," Brekke added.

## What is Great River Energy doing about it?

Great River Energy is holding the line on costs. The company stopped hiring in 2008 for a savings of more than \$5 million and cut another \$5.3 million from its general operating budget. Capital spending was reduced from \$1.6 billion to \$900 million by putting all new projects on hold and only completing those already in progress.

## What can you do?

Sign up for Energy Wise off peak programs that shift electric load to the most cost-effective times of the day. Turning off lights, unplugging unused electronics and switching to compact fluorescent bulbs will help you become more energy efficient and reduce power supply costs. The more you conserve, the longer it will be until another expensive power plant is needed.

You can also help keep electricity rates reasonable by contacting elected officials and asking them to consider the cost of new regulations before they vote "yea." Visit [www.OurEnergyMN.coop](http://www.OurEnergyMN.coop) to send a message to state officials, or [www.OurEnergy.coop](http://www.OurEnergy.coop) to contact a representative in the federal government.

# Reservations being accepted for Coal Creek Tour



This year's Coal Creek Tour is August 4-6. Reservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an educational and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, North Dakota Heritage Center, Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center including Fort Mandan, a reconstructed and fully-furnished fort where Lewis & Clark spent a winter. Attendees go on a drive-through tour of Blue Flint Ethanol, which is constructed adjacent to Coal Creek generating plant, and a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area, Garrison Dam and Lake Sakakawea overlook.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Students 10-18 years of age who share a room with their parents or grandparents pay only \$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, August 4, and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 6. 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 to sign up.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Coal Creek Tour, August 4 - 6, 2009.

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.*

## McLeod Cooperative Power Association — ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

April 15, 2009

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center.....	8:30 a.m.
"Early Bird" Prizes .....	9:45 a.m.
Meeting Called to Order .....	10:00 a.m.
Invocation.....	Bill Polchow, Director
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 2008 Annual Meeting .....	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates .....	Doug Kirtz, President
Financial Report.....	Randall Ahrndt, Office Manager
Closing of Ballots .....	Doug Kirtz, President
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 .....	Charles Kubesh, Nominating Committee Chairman
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 – Two \$250 Gift Certificates

Table Prayer.....	Roger Karstens, Director
Lunch following Annual Meeting .....	Chef Craig Catering

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

# What High-Tech Electric Appliances Will New Home Buyers Want?

## Key Points

- A recent Digital Kitchen Study identified six concepts as most desired for a remodeled kitchen.
- Smart refrigerators come with built-in LCD screens and message centers.
- A toothbrush sanitization system uses a germicidal UV light bulb to kill germs and bacteria.

Refrigerators with LCD screens instead of magnets and the ability to cook food as well as cool it, not to mention microwave ovens with barcode scanners, smart laundry room appliances, and smart dishwashers. What could possibly be next? The Internet Home Alliance Research Council, a Continental Automated Buildings Association (CABA) organization, recently conducted Digital Kitchen Study that identified the following six concepts as desired for a remodeled kitchen:

1. Digital Calendar
2. Recipe Projection
3. Energy-Use Monitoring and Control
4. Universal Charging Station
5. Wireless Internet
6. Home Control Station

If you do not want to wait for these items, some commercially available advanced appliance technologies are discussed below.

## Smart Refrigerators



Smart refrigerators, like LG's GR-G267ATBA or GE's Profile PFSS6SMX come with built-in LCD screens (see image above) and message centers. Watch TV or surf the Internet for your favorite recipes, right in your kitchen. In the future, these types of refrigerators will inventory what is inside and, based on what you normally stock, create a grocery list for you and send it to the grocery store.

## Barcode Scanning Microwave

Salton's Beyond Microwave's built-in barcode scanner recognizes the type of meal, its size, and brand by scanning the barcode on the product package. When a product is scanned, the microwave quickly sifts through up to 4,000 barcodes in its memory, automatically selecting the correct temperature setting and cooking time.

## Smart Dishwashers

GE's Profile dishwasher with Smart Dispense™ technology enables the dishwasher to hold an entire 45-ounce bottle of liquid or gel detergent and dispense just the right amount for each wash, based on water hardness and load soil level, saving on detergent. Refills are typically only necessary once every two to three months, saving the hassle of loading detergent before every wash.



## Advanced Water Purification

The GE Homespring central water purifier (see image at right) uses advanced hollow-fiber ultrafiltration membranes to reduce contaminants in drinking water. The membrane wall is made from a polymer composite that has billions of tightly controlled microscopic pores that are 0.02 microns nominal in size. Water naturally flows through the pores from the outside and in through the membrane wall under very low pressure. The unit filters water at the point of entry to the home and can provide clean water to every faucet and bath. The system operates solely by inlet water pressure and requires no chemicals to disinfect water.



## Bathroom Sanitation

The VIOLight toothbrush sanitization system (see image at left) uses a germicidal UV light bulb (rated to last over 2,000 hours), and is proven effective for killing germs and bacteria. You simply brush, rinse, place your toothbrush in the cup-sized holder and, with the push of a button, the sanitizer starts to kill those unwanted germs. VIOLight is the size of an average cup or toothbrush holder. Since it doubles as a sanitizer and holder, it will not take up any extra space in your bathroom. The entire process takes only 10 minutes. When finished, the bulb automatically shuts off.

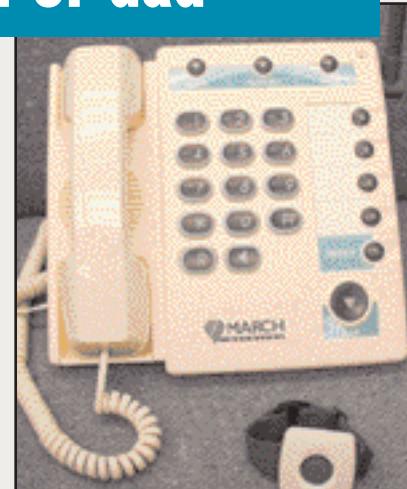


## Refrigerator-Oven Concept

Combining an oven's high heat with the low temperatures of a refrigerator, Whirlpool's Polara refrigerated range was conceived to deliver high-performance cooking with high-performance cooling. It would be smart enough to keep a meal cool and fresh all day, then cook it at the right temperature for the right length of time just in time for dinner. The Polara's convection oven would also lower the temperature of just-baked foods to keep them warm. The cooktop would still function normally, even when the oven is in cooling mode. This product concept is not yet commercially available.

## Emergency pendants for mom or dad

You do not need to wait for a special occasion to give an emergency medical pendant from McLeod Cooperative Power. Although they make a perfect gift for the older person who already has everything, sometimes the need requires immediate action. If you are ready to worry less about elderly parents or grandparents living alone, then this is the time for an emergency pendant. With just one push of a button, your loved ones can get immediate emergency help.



Emergency telephone and pendant systems cost under \$30 a month (plus an initial installation fee). These systems provide 24-hour monitoring by a professional dispatch center. The system will summon help for the subscriber whether they are in their home, garage, or yard. It is an excellent safety device for older persons living alone.

Call the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 to request an information brochure and pricing.

**ALWAYS  
CALL  
BEFORE YOU  
DIG**



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
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**NOTE: It is the member's responsibility to hire a locator or electrician and pay for location services for any wires located between the meter and the home.**

# Profiles of director candidates for District 4, 5 & 6

## District 4 includes:

Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola, and a portion of Kingman Township, all in Renville County, and a portion of East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County, served by McLeod Cooperative Power



### Willard Karl

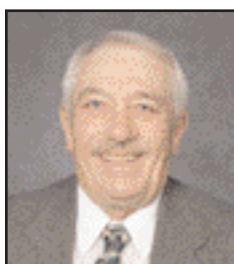
Willard Karl is a lifelong resident of Boon Lake Township and a graduate of Buffalo Lake High School. He and his wife Karen have a combined family of five children and 13 grandchildren.

Willard and Karen were married eight years ago, after both of them were widowed.

Willard was a dairy farmer until 1994. He still raises heifers and steers, and is a crop farmer, growing corn, beans, alfalfa and wheat. When they are not farming, Willard and Karen enjoy traveling, fishing and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Willard has served on the Boon Lake Township Board for 26 years. He served as treasurer all 26 years. He also served on the church council for 12 years at St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedar Mills, where they are members.

It is important to Willard that the Cooperative works to keep electric bills reasonable. He is pleased to serve as a candidate, and if elected, will serve diligently as the board member from District 4.



### Curtis Rossow

Curtis is the incumbent director in District 4. He and his wife Elaine have seven children, 11 grandchildren and another due in July. They also have one great-granddaughter. Their four married daughters and their families live

in the Buffalo Lake area, and two of their sons live in Mankato with their families. One son and his family lives in Carver.

They have lived in the Buffalo Lake area for 33 years, where Curt farms 320 acres of corn and soy beans. They are members of Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo Lake, where Curt served on the council for several years and is currently serving on the endowment committee. He was instrumental in starting the Horseshoe Event at the Buffalo Lake Days many years ago and was involved in that event until two years ago. He also helped secure funding for the new Buffalo Lake grocery store, Main Street Market, after a tornado destroyed the original building. Curt was on the 2004 Task Force, studying the need for a new Jail and Human Services Facility in Renville County.

Curt enjoys bowling, horseshoe, and spending time with his family. Curt would like to continue serving as a director, as he thinks it is very interesting and exciting. "We have good discussions before making decisions for now and for the future of the Cooperative and its patrons," he said. "As the Co-op faces rising energy costs, the board will work hard to keep rates affordable."

## District 5 includes:

Lynn, Collins, and Round Grove Townships, all in McLeod County



### Allan Duesterhoeft

Allan is the incumbent director for District 5. Allan operates a dairy farm, eight miles southwest of Hutchinson in Lynn Township.

He farms 160 acres, raising corn, alfalfa and small grain. He raises heifers and calves, and feeds Holstein steers besides his small dairy herd.

Allan is a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the McLeod County Holstein Association. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church and serves as congregation secretary and Sunday School teacher.

Allan would like to serve as a director because electricity is very important to operating a farm or other business. He believes an important issue facing the Cooperative is providing reliable service at the lowest possible price.



### Oather (Marty) Martin

Oather Martin, known to many as Marty Martin, is a graduate of Brownton High School and Hutchinson Vocation Technical College, where he majored in Accounting. He has been a McLeod Cooperative Power

member for 36 years.

Oather and his wife Sandra reside in Collins Township, southwest of Hutchinson. They have five children and 14 grandchildren. He was formerly a dairy farmer and an employee of the City of Glencoe. He now owns America's Best Realty in Hutchinson and is the agency's broker. He is also a partner in KWAM Construction, which builds commercial and residential buildings.

He currently serves as Commander for VFW Post 906 in Hutchinson. He is also Chief CEO of the Stewart American Legion Post 125 and Senior Vice-Commander of Disabled Veterans Chapter 37. He serves on the Grace Lutheran Church Council in Brownton and is president of the McLeod County Chapter of Thrivent Financial Services.

Oather would like to see alternative energy sources, like wind or biomass, be pursued as sources of generation.

## District 6 includes:

New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden, and Transit Townships, all in Sibley County.



### Wayne Grams

Wayne Grams has been a co-op member his entire life. He and his wife, Cindy, reside in Transit Township of Sibley County. They have two grown children and one grandson.

Wayne farms with his brother, Lowell, raising steers and beef cows, and crop farming. He has also been employed by Seneca Foods in Arlington for the past three and a half years. Cindy works for the Citizen's State Bank in Gaylord.

Wayne is a graduate of Gaylord High School. He has served for 27 years as Transit Township Clerk and is in his 7th year as a director for the Sibley County Township Association. He is currently chairman of the church council at the American Lutheran Church in Gaylord.

"I'd enjoy serving on the cooperative board," stated Wayne, "and 27 years of township board experience will be helpful in serving on the Co-op board. Others have encouraged me to run, so I will be a candidate for District 6."



### Lester Ranzau

Lester, the incumbent director, and his wife Linda, have five adult children. Lester helps two sons with the farming operation. Linda is a RN at Good Samaritan Center in Arlington.

Lester and Linda are active members of First Lutheran Church of Glencoe. Lester is the Vice-Pres. of McLeod Cooperative Board of Directors. He is also on the board of Great River Energy, our power supplier.

"I would like to continue serving on the local board because I feel I have the experience to serve in this capacity," Lester said. "I have gotten to know our state and federal legislators. This connection is very important for MCPA today (such as the proposed carbon tax which would be very costly to our members).

"I believe that important issues facing MCPA are: Keeping reliable service for our members and being efficient in today's economy." Lester added, "When a member has a problem, I'll continue my policy of following up until it is resolved."

***The Nominating Committee met February 23 to select the names that will appear on the ballot for the election of directors in Districts 4, 5 & 6. The Nominating Committee is required to select two people from each district.***