

McLeod Cooperative Power

NEWS

March 2010

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

75th Anniversary Celebration

All members of McLeod Cooperative Power are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 6 at the Hutchinson Event Center.



Join us between 4-6 p.m. for hamburgers (Culver's famous Butterburgers - fresh off of the grill), cole slaw, potato chips, Oreo custard sandwiches, milk and coffee, catered by Culver's of Hutchinson. (Eat in only. No take-outs available).

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55350

Stay and enjoy entertainment from 4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

- Creekside Jazz Trio, featuring Lon Roach, Dan Biederwolf, and Dave Sonsolla.
- Magician & Comedian Thomas Whitcomb
- Operation Round Up recipients announced
- Washington DC Youth Tour winner Erin Wolter
- The singing Cogley Sisters

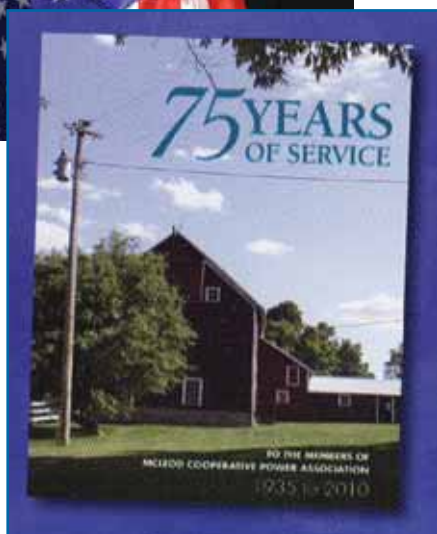


Special attendance gift for members: 75-year commemorative history book of McLeod Cooperative Power Association. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. to conduct the business of the Cooperative, reflect on our rich 75 years of history and election of directors (see meeting schedule on page 6).

For those unable to attend the business meeting, it will be broadcast live from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on KDUZ radio, 1260 AM on your radio dial.

Members present at the end of the meeting will be eligible to win attendance prizes as well as the grand prize — a high-definition television. Register to win an 85-gallon Marathon water heater (need not be present at time of drawing to win).

Heartland Security Services, DIRECTV and high-speed internet personnel, as well as load management technicians will be on hand to answer your questions. Mark your calendars to attend this year's Annual Meeting.



Please complete RSVP for annual meeting

In the electric bill you receive in mid-March, there will be an RSVP card. Please complete this card to help us estimate how many meals to prepare for this year's Annual Meeting. You may either return the card with your payment to us or you may

reply to our e-mail address on the card to let us know if you plan to attend the meeting and how many persons from your family we should plan for. This will be a tremendous help to us. Please watch for your card and RSVP if you plan to attend. Thank you.

MCPA receives "Excellence In Safety Award"

McLeod Cooperative Power Association has been chosen by the Minnesota Rural Electric Trust as this year's recipient of the Leroy Vanderpool's "Excellence in Safety Award." The Cooperative was honored for its three years without an injury accident and two years without a vehicle accident. The Co-op's last lost-time accident was in December 2005.

Boors are survey drawing winners

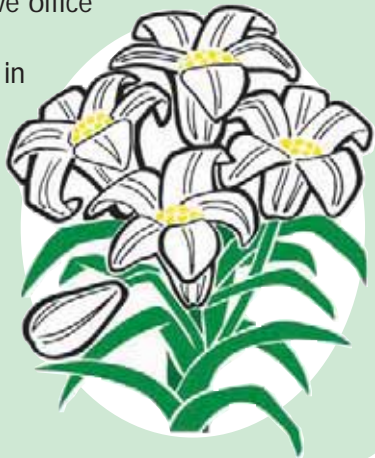
Paul & Susan Boor of Hutchinson were the winners in our random drawing of returned satisfaction surveys. They will receive a \$100 electric bill credit. Congratulations!

Over 2,100 electric members completed and returned the Co-op's satisfaction survey in January. We greatly appreciate the time each member took to rate the job we are doing and to give us your valuable opinions.

McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, April 2

The Cooperative office will be closed Friday, April 2 in observance of Good Friday.

Members with an outage or emergency may dial 1-800-927-5685. Members needing DIRECTV assistance may call 1-800-927-5414.



Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 16

Members residing in Districts 7, 8, and 9 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 16. 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 6, 2010.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 16.

The perfect Mother's or Father's Day gift

Do you worry about...

*your parents getting older?
mom or dad living alone?*

The First Alert emergency pendant from McLeod Co-op Power may be just the thing they need to help you worry less while they live on their own. One press of the button will call the 24-hour medical dispatch center, which will send a family member, neighbor or police over to help. The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and make a perfect Mother's Day or Father's Day gift.



Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-MCPA for more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

April is the last month for special manufacturer rebates on Steffes room storage heaters



Until April 15, 2010, Steffes is offering a special rebate on each of their room storage heaters. The rebate is in addition to the Cooperative's \$40 per kW rebate. This is the perfect time to buy a storage heater as an additional Dual Fuel back-up, to warm a cold room or four-season porch. The units operate on the Co-op's off-peak storage program and qualify for the half-price electric rate.

Steffes Model	kW size	Steffes rebate	Co-op rebate
2102	3.0	\$40	\$120
2103	4.5	\$60	\$180
2104	6.0	\$80	\$240
2105	7.5	\$100	\$300
2106	9.0	\$120	\$360

Call the Cooperative office to discuss the proper size unit for your home and place an order at 800-494-6272.

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 in your clothes. 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.



Nominating Committee selects candidates

The 2010 Nominating Committee is pictured standing left to right, Rickie Jopp, David Johnson, Edward Ekdahl, Ron Pulkrabek and Harry Nowak, and seated left to right, Robert Schindler, Curt Burns, Alvin Knaak, and Duane Dostal.

The 2010 Nominating Committee met February 4th and 18th to select a slate of candidates for Districts 7, 8, and 9 to be on the ballot at the April 6 annual meeting. Candidates selected are:

District 7: William Polchow & Doug Portele
District 8: Doug Kirtz & Keith Peterson
District 9: Gerald Roepke & Virgil Stender

Members of this year's committee were: District 7 — Duane Dostal of Silver Lake, Harry Nowak of Silver Lake and Ron Pulkrabek of Glencoe. District 8 — Curt Burns of Stewart, Alvin Knaak of Stewart, and Robert Schindler of Hector. District 9 — Edward Ekdahl of New Germany, David D. Johnson of Young America, and Rickie Jopp of Mayer.

How much was my Dual Fuel controlled this winter?

During the October 2009 through February 2010 heating season, Dual Fuel systems were controlled on 21 days for a total of 100.25 hours. This is less than the average year's control hours and much less than the 400 hours per heating season that Dual Fuel systems can be controlled. The breakdown is as follows:

October2 days8 hours
 November2 days7.25 hours
 December8 days40 hours
 January7 days35 hours
 February.....2 days10 hours
 MarchDo not know yet

When electric members install a Dual Fuel system, the agreement they sign to receive the low Dual Fuel electric heating rate states that in exchange for being billed at the reduced rate, the member will allow the Cooperative to automatically control their electric heat up to 400 hours per heating season. Fortunately for our members, the total number of hours of winter control has usually been between 100-200 hours per year, far below the agreed-upon maximum hours.

This means that for most Dual Fuel participants, you can assume that your propane or oil furnace/backup system operated for about 100 hours the entire winter. The rest of the time you were using half-price electricity; a much cheaper option.



What is a building envelope?

And is it costing you money?

Join your Cooperative for a Save Energy webcast on Tuesday, April 13, at 12 p.m. or 7 p.m. to learn easy ways to reduce your energy use this summer. The webcast will discuss ways you can lower the amount of electricity you use to cool your home during the summer. You'll also learn how to improve your home's building envelope, and find those areas where your home

may be leaking energy. You'll also learn about energy efficient lighting.

Energy experts will be available to answer your questions. To join the webcast, visit <http://MNBrighterIdeas.Webex.com> (note, there is not a www before the address). Pre-registration is not required.

Go green with energy efficient landscaping

A well-landscaped yard can be more than just pleasing to the eye – it can also save energy. By thoughtfully landscaping the grounds around your home you can enjoy years of energy savings.

Energy efficient landscaping makes its biggest impact on the two most energy intensive tasks in your home: heating and cooling. By planting trees to shade your windows, you'll reduce cooling costs in the summer months by minimizing heat gain from the sun. When the seasons change and the leaves fall, sunlight will pass through and provide heat exactly when it's needed.

Trees also function as natural air conditioners through a process called evapotranspiration. As water is drawn from the ground to the leaves, water vapor is released which cools the surrounding air.

Best of all, energy savings from trees will only grow with time; a newly planted tree will begin shading windows in its first year and will reach roof height in five to 10 years. However, more energy savings can be found closer to the ground.

Planting shrubs, bushes and vines next to your house creates dead air spaces that insulate your home in both winter and summer. During the winter months, dense, low-lying shrubbery on the north and northeast sides of your home can serve as a windbreak and protect your home against wind chill.

While landscaping can be costly, you can recoup the costs with ongoing energy savings. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, landscaping for energy efficiency can provide enough energy savings to recoup the initial investment in less than eight years.

Back by popular demand!

If you live or teach in an area served by Meeker Cooperative, McLeod Co-op Power, or Great River Energy, we have an excellent opportunity for you. Great River Energy and its 28 member cooperatives once again will offer Energy Education in the Classroom. This teacher's course is part of the popular Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP), which has received positive feedback from teachers since it began in 1997. KEEP and faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will share their exceptional energy education tools to help teachers easily build energy education into their curriculum. The course will be held in early August at Great River Energy in Maple Grove, Minn., one of the state's most talked about buildings!

HURRY – REGISTER BY JULY 20! Limited to 20 teachers on a first-come basis. For more information, please visit www.uwsp.edu/keep or call 715.346.4818 or e-mail energy@uwsp.edu

- Great River Energy will provide \$420 scholarships to teachers who live or teach in an area served by Great River Energy
- Teacher's will pay \$75 on the first day of class, which will cover 1 graduate credit from UWSP and all materials
- Minnesota teachers will need to apply for reciprocity (a very quick and easy online process)
- Teachers will pay for lodging and travel costs



Sign up for a Heartland Security System by April 30 and receive a free H₂O sensor (\$120 value)!*

Just when you thought you were safe to leave the house...

Wish you knew when your sump pump wasn't keeping up? A Heartland Security system with a water sensor can alert the homeowner to a pre-determined level.

If you think security systems are just to keep burglars out, Heartland Security systems fitted with special sensors can help detect smoke, gas, and carbon monoxide changes within your home. Furthermore, Heartland Security systems can sound the alarm. They automatically notify the authorities and can be customized to fit a multitude of needs, including livestock, surveillance, medical and more. Call 1-888-264-6380 or visit www.heartlandss.com for more information.

Heartland Security
1-888-264-6380

Heartland Security
1-888-264-6380

*Certain restrictions apply. May not be combined with any other offers.

A SUBSIDIARY OF MEEKER COOPERATIVE LIGHT AND POWER OF LITCHFIELD AND McLEOD CO-OP POWER OF GLENCOE



Have a problem with a wet basement in the spring?

Here Are Some Tips to Keep You Dry

A damp basement is a common problem for many homeowners, especially those with older homes. Excessive moisture in basements can cause mold and mildew, poor indoor air quality, and even structural damage. The following measures will help you keep your lower level dry and comfortable, improve your overall indoor environment, and save money on unnecessary repair costs.

Outside

The most common source of excess moisture in basements is water seeping in from the outside. If you have water in your basement after a rain—or in the spring and fall—the first place to look is the area around your house.

- Check the landscaping around your house. If the ground slopes inward toward your house, a pool of water can form where it can sink into the ground and enter through the foundation. If you spot a problem, add to or rearrange the dirt around your foundation so that it slopes away at an angle of one inch per foot. In some situations, the foundation may need to be sealed from outside or repaired. In these cases, contact a qualified contractor.
- Avoid using mulch around your foundation, as it holds water. Plant grass or ground cover near the house where it will draw water out of the soil. Gravel or rocks around your house can also help to deflect moisture.
- Check gutters for leaks and make sure that they are cleaned regularly to avoid overflow. A leaky gutter can cause water to pool around your foundation in a heavy rain. If you spot a leak, have it repaired immediately. If you have older gutters,

consider replacing them. Make sure that the downspouts direct water safely away from the house, at least five or six feet.

- Clean, tight-fitting metal window wells that are covered with gravel can help to seal out moisture. Clean out window wells that are covered with leaves and repair or replace damaged or loose-fitting window wells.

Inside

If the moisture in your basement is unrelated to the weather or seasonal changes, then the problem is likely due to an interior leak or condensation from excess moisture in the air.

- Check plumbing pipes and make sure that there are no leaks from the bathroom or kitchen up above. Have any leaks repaired immediately. Also consider insulating pipes, as cold water pipes may develop condensation on the surface.
- If you see condensation on the walls of your basement, consider covering them with a quality water-resistant paint.
- Avoid using your basement to dry clothes, as this can contribute to the humidity and moisture in the surrounding area. Use your clothes dryer or dry clothing outside when weather permits.
- Make sure that basement appliances, such as your clothes dryer, are properly vented.
- If you have a bathroom in your basement, install an exhaust fan to remove moisture and ensure that the area is properly vented.
- Use a dehumidifier. A dehumidifier is a useful tool for removing excess moisture in a basement area. Depending on the size and layout of your basement, you may need more than one unit.

Source: Power Up Residential E-Newsletter from Questline, A Service of Tech Resources, Inc.

INDUSTRY News

Google gains FERC approval

U.S. energy regulators approved a request by Google Inc., to become an electricity marketer, allowing the Internet giant to buy and sell bulk power like a utility.

The Internet company currently doesn't own generation facilities or transmission lines to deliver power and isn't planning to use the new authority for retail purposes, FERC officials said before the commission voted at its monthly meeting. Google has said its interest in the power markets stems from a desire to manage its own energy supplies and gain better access to renewable power.

A spokeswoman for the company said, "We made this filing so we can have more flexibility in procuring power for Google's own operations, including our data centers."

Google does offer an online tool to help consumers manage their energy use known as Google's PowerMeter. The company has partnered with utilities on this project.

-Wall Street Journal

GRE and Weatherization agencies meet to discuss healthy, energy efficient homes

Great River Energy recently invited directors and coordinators of weatherization for all community action agencies, Minnesota Office of Energy Security staff and distribution cooperative managers to participate in a meeting to discuss opportunities for working together to achieve healthier, more energy-efficient homes in co-op service territories.

Marilou Chepel, Weatherization Program Supervisor from the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, was the featured guest and helped to clarify expectations from her perspective.

It will be important for utilities and weatherization agencies to work together to achieve healthier, more efficient residences that realize energy savings and effectively meet statutory spending requirements in a manner that best helps consumers.

-Press Release

This year's Coal Creek Tour is June 21-23



View from roof of Coal Creek Station.



Experience the fresh, clean air of North Dakota. Take in its scenery, agricultural and energy production.



Tour Falkirk Mine and get a close up look at the coal mining equipment and draglines.



Garrison Dam is back on the tour itinerary. This is a hydro dam on the Missouri River.



Fort Mandan is where Lewis and Clark spent the winter before their journey west. We visit the fort and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

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, Garrison Dam, North Dakota Heritage Center and Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center (including Fort Mandan, a reconstructed and fully-furnished fort where Lewis & Clark spent a winter). Attendees will go on a drive-through tour of Blue Flint Ethanol which is constructed adjacent to Coal Creek Generating Plant, as well as a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Students 10-18 years of age, who share a room with their parents or grandparents, are \$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 Monday, June 21 and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23. 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 at 800-494-6272 to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check.

Please reserve _____ places for the Coal Creek Tour, June 21-23, 2010.

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 Hutchinson Event Center — April 6, 2010

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center	4:00 p.m.
Light meal served	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Entertainment	
Creekside Jazz Trio	4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Thomas Whitcomb, Comedian & Magician	5:15 - 5:45 p.m.
Presentation of Operation Round Up Donations	Operation Round Up Trust Board
Washington DC Youth Tour	Erin Wolter, Winner
Cogley Sisters	6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Called to Order	6:30 p.m.
Invocation.....	Allan Duesterhoeft, Director
National Anthem	Cogley Sisters
Welcome.....	Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Establish a Quorum	Dale E. Peters, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2009 Annual Meeting.....	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Districts 7, 8, and 9	Gerald Roepke President
Introduction of Directors, District 1-6	Gerald Roepke President
Financial Report	Randall Ahrndt, Office Manager
Closing of Ballots	Gerald Roepke President
President's Report	Gerald Roepke President
Manager's Report	Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Introduction of employees	Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Reflection on changes at MCPA — 1970 - today	Lester Ranzau, Director
Recognition of former employees and directors	Lester Ranzau, Director
Introduction of Nominating Committee.....	Gerald Roepke President
Election Report	Nominating Committee Chairman
Unfinished Business	Gerald Roepke President
New Business.....	Gerald Roepke President
Adjournment	
Drawing for Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize – High Definition TV	

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

Get your career off of the ground



(Photo courtesy of MSCTC in Wadena).

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2010-11 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, 2010.

Members may begin donating to Operation Round Up® any time of the 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.

Members who sign up for Operation Round Up will have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The difference between the billing amount and the nearest dollar goes to the Operation Round Up Trust. Members on the program donate from -0- to \$.99 a month, depending on the amount of their electric bill. 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: _____

State of Minnesota offering ground source heat pump rebate

If you installed an Energy Star-rated ground source heat pump system in your home after July 1, 2009 or are planning to install one now, you might be able to get an additional rebate from the State of Minnesota. The amount of funding is limited so consumers should act quickly. Rebate is for 35% of eligible system and installation costs up to \$10,000. This is in addition to any federal tax credits or utility rebates.



The ground source heat pump must be installed at your primary residence and be not more than 5.5 tons. There is a list of items you must comply with to qualify, so visit the state web site at www.energy.mn.gov and look for the heat pump application form. If you can't locate the application or do not have internet access, call McLeod Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 for a copy of the form.

Fridge Farewell Program to begin April 1

Great River Energy and McLeod Cooperative Power will offer a program to help you get that old (but still operating) refrigerator or freezer out of your basement or garage. The promotion will run April 1 through August 31, 2010. Members will receive a \$35 rebate to recycle their spare, working fridge or freezer. They will get free pickup and removal of the appliance and each member could save up to \$150 a year in energy use. This program is not for replacement of your primary kitchen refrigerator! It is designed to get rid of a second or third refrigerator or freezer and remove that energy use from the grid. The unit must be between 10 and 27 cubic feet and must be 15 years or older. It must be owned by the customer and picked up at the residential address listed on your bill. The unit must be plugged in and operating for the recycler to take it.

After April 1 you may call 1-877-838-1139. You will have to give them your name and address and your McLeod Cooperative Power account #. You can then arrange with them for an appointment to pick up your old refrigerator or freezer. Several weeks after the unit is picked up you will receive your \$35 recycling check in the mail from the Fridge Farewell Program. This program is being administered by ARCA, an appliance recycling company. You cannot schedule a pick up by calling the Cooperative.



This recycling offer may not be combined with any Cooperative appliance rebate or qualify as the refrigerator recycling component for any new appliance rebate.

Send your fridge to a better place

Get \$35 for recycling your spare fridge

Take part in the Fridge Farewell program and you'll get \$35 back, plus save up to \$150 a year in home energy costs. It's no hassle: a professional contractor will haul away your old fridge or freezer from your home or garage for proper recycling.

Participation Requirements

- You must be a residential electric customer of McLeod Cooperative.
- The fridge or freezer must be owned by the customer and be picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account.
- The fridge or freezer must be an operating, secondary unit that has been functioning in the home a minimum of two months to qualify.
- No primary units will be recycled and there is a limit of two appliances per household.
- Ammonia-based refrigerators are not eligible.
- The fridge or freezer must be between 10 and 27 cubic feet, 15 years or older.
 - Most refrigerators and freezers have a manufacturer's sticker on the back or on the bottom portion of the ledge by the door and the date is usually included in the numbers written on the sticker.
- The fridge or freezer must be located in a single-dwelling home, a townhouse or a duplex, triplex or four-plex building.

Promotion runs from April 1 through August 31, 2010. Call 1-877-838-1139 or visit mnbrighterideas.com to schedule your pickup.

2010
Fridge Farewell
mnbrighterideas.com

Profiles of director candidates for District 7, 8 & 9

The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each district to appear on the ballot. Below are the names they have selected for Districts 7, 8, and 9.

District 7 includes:

Hale, Rich Valley and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County and part of Stockholm Township in Wright County.



Bill Polchow

Bill was born and raised in Lynn Township. He has lived in Hale Township for nearly 35 years. He and his wife Bette operated Henry's Corner, a popular establishment in Hale Township, from 1976-1996. Previous to

1976, Bill worked as a brick mason in Hopkins, Minnesota. The Polchow's have three children and nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bill is the incumbent director in District 7. He is running for his fourth term on the board. He is currently the assistant secretary/treasurer.

Since retiring Bill fishes and hunts, plays cards and is a sports fan. He was formerly a volunteer fireman and is currently a member of the Legion. Bill is a member of the Silver Lake Sportsman's Club. Bill and Bette are active members at St. John's Lutheran Church in Winsted.

"I would like to continue serving as director. Serving on the McLeod Co-op Board has been a challenging and educational experience," said Bill. "I believe we must keep an open mind regarding the many issues and changes that are facing the Co-op today. I would be privileged to represent and serve you for another term. I will continue working to maintain reliable service at the lowest possible cost. Thank you for your support."



Doug Portele

Doug has been a lifetime resident of Rich Valley Township. He and his wife, Barb, live north of Glencoe. Barb has been employed by 3M in Hutchinson for 35 years.

They have one son Joel, who is an engineer at General Dynamics nuclear submarine plant in Groton, Conn.

Doug served on the McLeod County Soil and Water Conservation Board for 18 years and he also served on the Rich Valley Township Board for eight years.

Doug and his wife Barb are active motorcyclists and go on cycling trips together whenever possible. Doug was a former dairy farmer, who now rents out his 160 acre farm. He works part-time for his renter, helping with field work and driving a grain semi-truck for him.

Now that he is no longer milking cows, he has the time for new challenges. He is interested in learning more about the Cooperative and serving District 7, if elected.

District 8 includes:

Melville, Palmyra, Martinsburg, Bandon, Norfolk, Wellington and Bird Island Townships in Renville County, and Grafton, Moltke and Bismarck Townships in Sibley County.



Doug Kirtz

Doug and his family operate Kirtz Farms west of Hector in Melville Township. They run a 550 sow farrow-to-wean operation. They also grow corn and soy beans. Doug is the incumbent director in District 8 and currently serves as

the board vice-president. He is running for his fourth term. Doug and his wife Lorie have two sons named Seth and Eli, and a daughter Sadie.

Doug is a member of the Renville County Pork Producers and has served on the Pork Producers board of directors as president and vice-president. He is a Cub Scout den leader and a former chairman of Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo Lake.

Doug is interested in keeping our Cooperative fiscally sound, so that we can continue to return capital credits to members. Doug would like to see the Cooperative continue with good, reliable service for its members. Doug said, "I believe it is important to stay involved in the political and environmental issues that will continue to bombard our members and the Cooperative in the very near future."



Keith Peterson

Keith is the owner of E & K Farms, Inc. in Martinsburg Township, south of Hector. He is a graduate of Hector High School and the University of Minnesota with a degree in Agriculture. Keith originally farmed with his father

Earl (now deceased) and he has lived in the township since 1977. For many years the Petersons were dairy farmers. Today Keith is a grain farmer operating about 1,700 acres.

Keith's wife Sandy is a Public Health Nurse for Renville County. She is the granddaughter of Henry S. Hanson, one of MCPA's early directors, serving from 1937-1948. Keith and Sandy had five daughters and they have five grandchildren. Keith currently serves as Chairman of the Martinsburg Township board and has served on the township board for ten years. He is member of the Hector Lions. Keith is a former board member for the Hector school district, local elevator, and Swedlanda Lutheran Church council. In his spare time, Keith enjoys hunting and doing things with their family.

If elected as a director in District 8, Keith said, "I will try to listen to both sides of an issue and work towards the right solution." He would like to see cooperatives utilize more nuclear power for generation and look at alternatives for our future supply of energy.

District 9 includes:

Hollywood, Camden, Watertown and Young America Townships in Carver County and Woodland and Franklin Townships in Wright County.



Gerald Roepke

Gerald Roepke is the incumbent candidate for District 9. He presently serves as president of McLeod Co-op's Board of Directors.

Gerald and his wife Karen have been married for 46 years. They have four children and five grandchildren. Gerald has been in the plumbing and heating business for the past 43 years. The Roepke's are active members of St. John's Lutheran Church in New Germany, where Gerald presently serves as president of the church council.

He also serves as Region 7C Baseball Commissioner for Minnesota State Amateur Baseball and serves on the board of the Minnesota State Baseball Hall of Fame.

Gerald said, "I like to work for people and I'm very interested in the rural electric industry, so I would like to continue serving as a director. We must keep an open mind with the many issues that are facing us today in the electric industry and we must continue to provide good, reliable service to our customers at the lowest possible price."



Virgil Stender

Virgil has previously served on MCPA's Board of Directors from 1989-1992. He currently serves as chairman of the Co-op's Operation Round Up Trust Board. He believes economic development is good for the Co-op and the

communities it serves. He also would like to continue to keep rates stable. Cap and Trade is an issue that members and directors alike need to monitor.

Virgil and his wife Phyllis have two children. Their daughter Denise and her husband Chad Newman live in the area. Their son Derek farms with Virgil.

The Stenders operate a beef and dairy farm in Camden Township near Young America. They also crop farm 450 acres in Camden Township. They ship milk to Bongard's Cooperative Creamery.

The Stender's are members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Young America. Virgil is currently Chairman of the Endowment Committee for the church. He is president of the local Thrivent branch. He was chairman of the Camden Township Board of Supervisors for 12 years and is currently vice-chairman of the Carver County Water, Environmental and Natural Resources Board. He was formerly vice-president of the Carver County ADA and a member of the Carver County Dairy Day Committee. He is a director of Carver County Farm Bureau.