

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

March 2014

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com



A student from St. Paul's Lutheran School in Arlington tries on the personal protective equipment worn by electrical line workers. She is assisted by MCPA line foreman Grant Miller.

Electrical Safety in the Schools

MCPA employees Grant Miller and Debbie Ebert put on an electrical safety presentation for 66 students in Grade 4 at Central Elementary School in Norwood Young America on January 21st. The same day they also did a presentation for students in grades 3-6 at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Arlington. Students viewed a safety video "Safety World," discussed dangerous situations and appropriate actions for students to take. Line foreman Grant Miller also explained the safety gear used by line



workers and students had the opportunity to try on some gear. The program is sponsored by Dairy Queen and participants received DQ coupons following their safety training.

Annual Meeting will be April 8

Plan to attend the Co-op's Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 8, at the Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe. Doors will open at 8:30 A.M. with employees on hand to answer all of your questions on Co-op programs. We will have booths with exede high-speed internet, electric heating/water heating/load management programs, and emergency medical pendants.

The business meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served following the meeting (approximately 11:00 a.m.). See the schedule for the meeting on page 3.

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 Larry Michaletz

District 2: Joe Griebie and Dave Sanken

District 3: Roger Karstens and Dane Madsen

See director profiles on page 8.

How cold has it been?



We all know the temperatures have been cold. The National Weather Service tracks heating degree days (HDD). This helps us calculate just how much more energy it took to heat your home.

The month of February 2014 had 27% more HDD than the normal February, and 23% more HDD than February 2013, according to temperatures recorded by the National Weather Service in Chanhassen. Looking at this winter since December 1, 2013 through the end of February, we have had 20% more HDD than a normal winter and 23% more HDD than last winter.

To put that in simple dollars and cents,

you probably spent an additional 20% this winter to heat your house and you likely used a lot more kilowatt-hours of electrical energy. If you normally use 800 gallons of fuel oil per winter, you were up to 960 gallons. If you normally use 1,000 gallons of propane per winter, you were up to 1,200 gallons. If you heat your house with electricity, add 20% more kWh.

If you have forced air heat, you probably used 20% more kWh to run your furnace fan. Did you have to plug in tank heaters on cars, trucks, skid loaders, tractors? Add that to your electric bill. Do you have livestock that uses heated waterers or heated dog dishes or dog house warming pads or space heater/heat lamps

for poultry or pets? Add that to your monthly electric bill. Did you use one or more electric space heaters in your home or in your barn this month? They add significantly to your kWh usage. This brutally cold winter has forced us to use more energy to keep warm and that is costing us more on our electric bill, as well as other heating fuel costs.

Rates for off-peak electric heat have not increased since 2010. The power cost adjustment increases or decreases slightly every month but it does not have the roller coaster volatility of fuels like natural gas, propane, or fuel oil. Higher electric bills for heating on the off-peak programs are due to the use of more kWh this winter, not increases in rates.

Thank you for completing surveys

Thank you to each member who took the time to complete and return a Member Satisfaction Survey. Your comments are greatly appreciated by our board of directors and staff. Results will be tabulated and a winner drawn from the returned entries after March 15.

The Lignite Energy Council of Bismarck, North Dakota is sponsoring a teacher seminar titled

2014 Lignite Teachers Education Seminar: Energy, Economics & Environment

at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck State College, Bismarck, ND, on June 16 - 19, 2014.

This seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers, farmers and businesses in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana and Iowa. The seminar includes discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy, and the economic impact of the industry on the region. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-based power plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant (which converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts).

The Lignite Energy Council is offering the seminar for the 29th year in 2014, primarily because of the overwhelmingly positive response that it has received from

past teacher seminar participants. The seminar is being held in cooperation with Bismarck State College, the Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota, Minot State University, and North Dakota State University. Each teacher can earn two semester graduate credits (economics through the University of North Dakota, science through Minot State University, or education through North Dakota State University) by successfully completing the seminar requirements.

Teachers selected to attend the seminar will be required to send in a \$60 deposit to hold their place, which will be returned to them when checking in on the first day of the seminar. For more information visit <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>

Having trouble paying your energy bills this year?

The state of Minnesota and the federal government have allocated additional dollars to help eligible families and senior citizens pay heating bills. The state has also changed the income guidelines so more Minnesotans may qualify for assistance. It has been raised to 60% of State Median Income to qualify. Call 1-800-657-3710 and press 2 for energy assistance. A list of local energy assistance offices is printed on the back of your electric bill if your bill is delinquent or you can call the Co-op for these agency numbers.

Maximum Eligible Income for Program Dates 10-01-2013 to 09-30-2014 Heating Assistance

Household Size	Annual	3-Month
1	\$27,232	\$6,808
2	\$35,612	\$8,903
3	\$43,991	\$10,997
4	\$52,370	\$13,092
5	\$60,749	\$15,187
6	\$69,128	\$17,675
7	\$70,700	\$17,675
8	\$72,271	\$18,067
9	\$73,842	\$18,460
10	\$75,413	\$18,853
11	\$76,984	\$19,638
12	\$78,555	\$19,638
13	\$80,126	\$20,031
14	\$81,697	\$20,424
15	\$83,268	\$20,817
16	\$84,839	\$21,209
17	\$86,411	\$21,602
18	\$87,982	\$21,995
19*	\$92,235	\$23,058
20*	\$96,657	\$24,164

**Based on 60% of State Median Income or 110% of Federal Poverty, whichever is greater.*

McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, April 18.

In case of emergency or outage, members may call 1-800-927-5685 anytime 24 hours a day.

Board of Directors

District 1
Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

District 2
Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer
Brownton

District 3
Roger Karstens, Vice President
Hutchinson

District 4
Doug Kirtz, **Hector**

District 5
Allan Duesterhoeft, **Hutchinson**

District 6
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Glencoe

District 7
Randy Hlavka
Silver Lake

District 8
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District 9
Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
New Germany

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk

The McLeod Cooperative Power News is the official member publication of McLeod Coop Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events.

All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

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Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 811 or 1-800-252-1166

Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 18



Members residing in Districts 1, 2, & 3 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 18. 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 before April 8, 2014.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 18.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE Pla-Mor Ballroom, Glencoe MN April 8, 2014

Registration Begins at Pla-Mor Ballroom	8:30 A.M.
Meeting Called to Order	10:00 A.M.
Invocation	Roger Karstens, Director
Pledge of Allegiance	All
Welcome	Keith Peterson, President
Establish a Quorum	Dale E. Peters, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting.....	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting	Dale Peters, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Dist 1, 2, & 3.....	Keith Peterson, President
Introduction of Directors in Districts 4-9.....	Keith Peterson, President
Financial Report.....	Jan Sanderson, Financial Services Manager
Closing of Ballots.....	Keith Peterson, President
President's Report	Keith Peterson, President
Guest Speaker	Gary Connett, Great River Energy
Announcement of Operation Round Up Recipients	ORU Trust Board
Introduction of Nominating Committee	Keith Peterson, President
Election Report	Roger Draeger, Nominating Committee Chairman
Unfinished Business	Keith Peterson, President
New Business	Keith Peterson, President
Adjournment	
Table Prayer	Allan Duesterhoeft, Director
Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize (\$300 electric bill credit).....	Sue Pawelk
Lunch to follow meeting	Catered by Pla-Mor Ballroom

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

January Outage Summary

During January there were 23 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

The two largest outages each affected 39 consumers. On Thursday, January 2, about 8:15 p.m., a broken power line caused 39 members west of Green Isle to be out of power for one hour and 54 minutes. On Sunday, January 5, about 11 p.m., the cold temperatures caused the conductor to pull apart. That outage caused 39 accounts on that same circuit to be out for one hour and 46 minutes.

The next largest outage was on Wednesday, January 8, about 5 p.m. and affected 18 accounts northwest of Winthrop. Members were out of power for one hour and 25 minutes.

Most outages affect only one or two members. They are frequently caused by small animals, trees in the line, equipment failure, or motor vehicle/machinery accidents. Larger outages affecting hundreds of members at a time are usually caused by transmission outages, storms, equipment failure to substation equipment, or accidents.

Restoration time on weekend and evening outages, when line crews are called out from home, usually take a little longer to get back on than outages when crews are already out working on the project.

Spend your July vacation with McLeod Co-op Power



Join us for the Coal Creek Tour July 28-30, 2014. The Cooperative will be hosting a three-day tour via motor coach to central and western

North Dakota. Tour stops will include Coal Creek Generating Station and Falkirk Mine and a night in Bismarck. The second night will be spent in Medora, taking in the Medora Musical and eating at the Pitchfork Fondue.

Call to make your reservations today. Double occupancy is \$400 per person or single occupancy \$500. Cost includes two night's hotel, most meals, motor coach transportation, and tickets to the musical/pitchfork fondue. Call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 and ask for Katie.



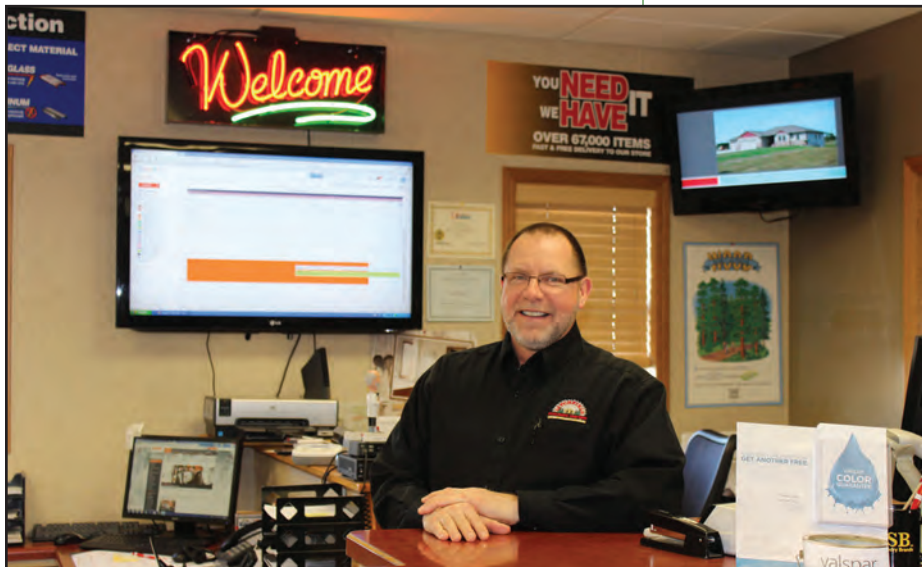
Dual Fuel gives Dennis and Renee Gartner options

Dennis Gartner, co-owner of Litchfield Building Center, had researched a dual fuel heating system a year ago. But it wasn't until the price of propane skyrocketed that he felt the pinch enough to make the switch from strictly propane.

Historically, Dennis and Renee, a certified registered dental assistant at Sibley Dental Suite, spent around \$1,000 per year to heat the 1,800 square foot rambler they built in 2004. But that was when propane sold for about \$1.42 per gallon. Dennis recognized that propane prices could be volatile, but it wasn't until this winter when the price shot up to over \$4.00 a gallon that he knew something had to change.



Heating with dual fuel is comparable to heating with \$1.30 per gallon propane. Dual fuel is saving our members a lot of money.



Litchfield Building Center Co-Owner Dennis Gartner gave himself options by going dual fuel.

"I remember when gasoline was under \$2.00 a gallon and when it shot up, it never went back down to under \$2.00," Gartner said. "I suspect the same thing may happen with propane. It wouldn't surprise me."

Faced with the high propane prices, the Gartners felt they had only two options.

"Renee said that we should shut the entire main floor and turn the heat down to 55 degrees while we lived in the basement to save energy," Gartner said. "I didn't think we needed to make such a drastic choice."

It didn't take long for Gartner to realize that the better option was to go dual fuel.

"I put an electric plenum heater on my furnace," Gartner said. "It was a quick, relatively easy procedure."

How the system works is easy, as well. Gartner already had experience with a load-controlled heating system. His basement floor has controlled in-floor heat. As electricity demand peaks beyond a set level, the Co-op pauses, or controls, the electric heat.

In a dual fuel system, there is an automatic back-up heating system, such as Gartner's propane furnace, that kicks in

when control is needed. The home remains nicely warm.

Heating with the low off-peak electric rate is similar to paying \$1.30 a gallon for propane. Right now, a lot of money can be saved with a dual fuel system. But this type of system gives options, too. Should the price of propane ever drop below \$1.30 again, the Gartners could simply return to heating with propane until the next time there is a significant jump in propane prices. Understanding the volatility of fossil fuels, the Gartners have made a wise choice.

"So far the system has worked great," Gartner said. "There's been no difference in heat, like I thought there might be. The fan runs a little longer, but that's the only difference I've noticed."



Simply adding a plenum heater to a propane furnace qualifies members for the low energy management electric rate.

The Gartners have made other energy-efficient choices, such as replacing old refrigerators and freezers. They also purchased a Marathon high-efficiency water heater with a 92% energy rating and went on the storage water program. Putting the Marathon on load control means they heat all their water with the low energy management electric rate, as well.

For more information about dual fuel, possible pay-backs on equipment costs and rebates available, please contact the Cooperative. They would be happy to discuss all your options to find the best one for your situation.

Galloping power lines



Hold your horses! Can power lines really gallop? Yes, occasionally they can and it can be dangerous. The most common cause of galloping lines is ice that builds up on one side of a power line as a result of strong winds. This buildup creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the normally round line. This change in air flow can cause the lines to start to bounce or gallop. These lines can bounce enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage

or even fall to the ground. Members will often experience the power going off and on as lines contact one another.

Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it until winds die down. This is why some power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. These devices can help reduce galloping of lines.

If you encounter galloping lines, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact your utility. In addition to the possibility of power outages, there is a danger of the lines or other electrical equipment breaking loose and falling or of ice being dislodged from the lines and falling to the ground.

Remember to always stay away from downed power lines. Contact the electric utility immediately.

The cooperative difference during periods of heightened demand Cold weather shows co-ops' value

In many ways, January was an unusual month in Minnesota. In terms of heating degree days, it was the 9th coldest in Minnesota over the past 142 years. That historic weather trend coincided with propane shortages and high natural gas prices (due in part to a pipeline fire).

The power grid was taxed as well because so many homeowners used more electricity to help heat their homes as the price and availability of other fuels caused concerns. In fact, Great River Energy witnessed January electric load 6.7 percent higher than the same period in 2013. The cooperative set an all-time winter electricity demand peak in January.

Great River Energy has advantages compared to many energy providers during these extreme conditions. In January, Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station and Stanton Station power plants generated more electricity

than budgeted, and did so using stably priced and abundant coal. The cooperative's wind resources also generated consistently, and that power was sold for high prices in the market.

Cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations motivated by providing service to their members, all of whom have a financial stake in the company. Great River Energy continues to be concerned about any cost increase that will harm the economic well-being of its member-consumers because cost increases are immediately reflected on members' electricity bills.

Although the energy that comes from your light socket or outlet is exactly the same whether you live in a big-city apartment or a farm house, cooperatives do face unique challenges. Here's how cooperatives measure up against other utility types:

	Cooperatives	Investor-Owned Utilities	Municipal Utilities
Customers per mile of power line	7	34	48
Revenue per mile of power line	\$15,000	\$75,500	\$113,000
Size (median number of customers)	13,000	400,000	2,000
Total customers	18.5 million	104 million	21 million

Electric Co-ops Warn EPA about Impact of Removing Coal from Fuel Mix at Hearing

February 06, 2014 (ARLINGTON, VA) — Today, John Novak, Executive Director of Environmental Issues at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) testified before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.

Speaking on behalf of the more than 900 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives, Novak warned the Agency about the impact of effectively removing coal as a hedge against the volatility of gas and wholesale market prices. Electric cooperatives serve 93 percent of the "persistent poverty counties," and co-ops remain concerned about the effect of this new rule on their members' electric bills, especially low or fixed income.

The following is an excerpt from Novak's testimony:

"As demonstrated by cold snaps just this winter, natural gas prices are volatile and spike even during shorter-term weather events. This has an immediate adverse effect on consumer electric bills. Coal, and its stable price, is a long-term proven hedge against natural gas volatility and is critical if we are to continue to provide affordable electricity for our members.

While new, unconventional natural gas supply from shale has played a huge role in lowering natural gas prices, even this increased gas supply has not changed the built-in volatility of natural gas. This is because price volatility is correlated with business cycles, weather extremes, and pipeline infrastructure issues. Again, we are experiencing this with the 2014 winter weather across much of the nation...

There are many areas of the country that either 1) have insufficient access to natural gas 2) do not have suitable sites for CO2 storage or enhanced oil recovery sites, or 3) cannot be supplied wholesale power reliably through the existing transmission grid. How will the EPA reconcile elimination of new coal-fired capacity in these situations?

Clean Air Act precedent is that the best system of emission reduction is based on data from existing plants in the US and worldwide as appropriate. In view of existing performance and what can be reasonably anticipated, we think the best system is defined by improvements in thermal efficiency, an option that EPA has considered and rejected in this proposal...

We think this proposal will be a setback for CO2 capture research, development and demonstration. If, as even the EPA suggests, no coal plants are being built, there will be even less support from the private sector for continued investment in the expensive and unproven CO2 capture development. And, consequently, CO2 capture won't be available to use fossil fuels as energy in a carbon constrained future neither in the US nor around the world.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

Is your propane water heater draining your pocketbook?

Off-peak electric water heating at 5 cents per kWh is equal to propane water heating at \$1.20 per gallon. Off-peak electric rates have not increased since 2010. If you are paying more than \$1.20 per gallon for propane, you might want to consider electric Storage Water Heating.

The benefits of heating your water on the Co-op's Storage Water Heating Program from 11 PM to 7 AM daily include: low cost, rate stability, safety, and high efficiency. The storage program also utilizes the abundance of electricity generated at night by wind power and sold into the grid when there is minimal need for energy. Water heaters on the storage program are like big batteries, storing the renewable energy generated at night in the water, and then using that hot water throughout the day as needed

MCPA News Ads — Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by **March 31** to be included in the April issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Please check ad category

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Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 7 1/2 ft snow blower w/quick hitch \$1,250. 320-327-2472
- Antique pedal sewing machine w/cabinet. Mfg by WHITE. 612-232-7700
- Antique porcelain double kitchen sink. Approx 60" X 24". 612-232-7700
- 2007 Brookside 5th wheel camper, 298FWBHS, 2 slides/2 bunks. Excellent. \$16,500. 320-241-5824
- All natural, state-inspected, local lamb; cut and packaged. 612-708-8311

- 4 BF Goodrich LT275/70R 18" T/A. Like new. \$700. 320-587-7443
- Homemade baby quilts, towels, scrubies, dish towels, 3-D pillows. 612-770-2791
- Magic Chef refrigerator, dorm size, white \$30. 320-587-7292
- Kimball oak console piano w/lamp, exc. cond, regularly tuned, \$400 firm. 320-587-4974

For Sale - Farm

- 1400 bushel Makita cone bottom bin. No rust. Make offer. 320-864-5095

- Flare box w/hydraulic hoist and Lindsay gear \$200. 320-833-2313
- 4"x20' electric grain auger w/motor \$100. 952-955-2414
- 10C Mity Mac, gas \$1,800 OBO, Bird Island 320-522-2167

Wanted

- Glencoe row-crop cultivator, 8-row or others, reasonably priced. 320-864-5233.

These want ads are designed to help members buy items from or sell items to other members, or rent their property to members. They are not designed to advertise services or for-profit business pursuits. That is why we do not offer a services column and do not accept advertisements for commercial businesses.

Disclaimer — McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against MCPA as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold MCPA harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Power Line Worker Scholarship Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2014-15 school term, may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award one \$500 scholarship for a local student.

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 17, 2014.

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Co-ops commended for conservation

State goal requires increasingly ambitious efficiency improvements

At the close of 2013, McLeod Co-op Power's wholesale power provider Great River Energy received a letter of commendation from the Minnesota Division of Energy Resources for achieving Minnesota's Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) goal in 2012. McLeod Co-op Power (MCPA) files its conservation achievements along with 27 other cooperatives through Great River Energy. MCPA's members collectively saved 1,056,352 kWh in 2012 through conservation and efficiency programs.

The law calls for every utility in the state to work toward an energy savings goal that is equivalent to 1.5 percent of annual retail energy sales. In 2012, Great River Energy's member cooperatives and end-use members exceeded the energy savings goal and were responsible for more than 127 million kilowatt hours

Power numbers

Sure, 127 million kilowatt hours (kWh) sounds impressive, but what does that really add up to? Here are some figures for comparison.

The 127,028,666 kWh saved through programs conducted by Great River Energy's member cooperatives equals:

- 115,787 tons of carbon dioxide emissions avoided
- A month of electricity for 160,000 homes
- The combined annual electricity sales of three cooperatives: Arrowhead Cooperative, Cooperative Light & Power and North Itasca Electric Cooperative
- The total production from approximately 97,714 kW of solar panels.
- 362,525 years of light from a 40-watt bulb

(kWh) of electricity savings among their member-consumers.

"This is recognition of our efforts to help members use electricity wisely," said Sue Pawelk, Customer Service Manager. "For an individual member, conservation is a way to reduce your individual bill. For our cooperative, it's a way to reduce wholesale power costs. For Great River Energy, conservation is a strategic resource for meeting our future needs for electricity."

MCPA will file its 2013 CIP results in June, and all indications are that the aggregate energy savings will mark the fourth year in which Great River Energy's member cooperatives will achieve the three goals outlined in the law: an energy savings goal, an overall energy-efficiency and demand-side-management spending requirement, and a spending requirement for low-income program offerings.

"We are already making progress toward our 2014 goals, so if you have made an efficiency improvement, or are considering it, please contact the staff at McLeod Co-op Power," said Pawelk. A list of rebates for efficiency improvements is listed in the newsletter and on the Co-op's website.

Unique cooperative challenges
Cooperative businesses tend to serve those types of end-use members from whom it's most difficult to record energy savings, such as residential and farm members. MCPA works with individual members to help them understand their energy use so they can identify areas where they'll benefit from an efficiency investment.

Among residential members, the most significant energy saving opportunities have been found in lighting and appliances.

"These areas have seen some of the greatest energy-efficiency improvements in recent years. These improvements reduce the energy savings that we can claim, making achieving future goals more difficult," said Pawelk.



MCPA line crews re-work connections on a three-phase line in Hale Township, north of Silver Lake, in February.

Did you know?

94% of MCPA accounts are farm and residential services, 4% are commercial and 2% are other miscellaneous accounts such as street lights. However, our farm and residential accounts only purchase 62% of our energy sales. Commercial accounts purchase 37% of energy and other accounts purchase the remaining 1%.

Rebate program for 2014

Ground Source Heat Pumps (controlled or uncontrolled)	
Residential	\$400/ton
Commercial	\$400/ton
Air Source Heat Pump	
14.5 SEER	\$480
15 SEER	\$580
16 SEER or higher	\$630
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump	\$300
Storage Space Heating	\$ 40/kW
ECM Motor	\$100
ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier	\$ 25
Storage Water Heating*	\$300
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit.....	\$ 75
ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit	\$ 75

*Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater that is being installed on the Storage Program.

There is a \$2,000 maximum rebate per member. Rebates are always on a first come, first serve basis so please turn your paperwork in promptly. Rebate forms are available for download from the Co-op's web site. Air source heat pump rebate form should be completed by the installing contractor.

Rebates for high efficiency heat pumps will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvaceducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. There will be no rebates on central air conditioners in 2014. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

There will be no rebates in 2014 for dishwashers, clothes washers, or refrigerator/freezer units without recycling.

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 Districts 1, 2, and 3. The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each district to appear on the ballot.

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 23 years he has been running the 160 acre farm; growing corn, beans and alfalfa, and raising beef cattle.

He enjoys growing 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 a teacher. He taught junior high and high school and was later a college instructor. He is currently a member of a group of volunteers that teach the AARP Driver's Safety Program for motorists over 55.

Oria has three grown children who live out-of-state. His wife Myrna passed away in 2004. Having fewer family obligations, he devotes his time 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 thoughtful analysis and common sense when helping make decisions.



Larry Michaletz

Larry was born and raised in Bergen Township. He is a graduate of Glencoe High School. Since 1976 he and his wife, Catherine, have lived in Winsted Township. The Michaletz's have two daughters: Emily who lives near Glencoe and Molly who is a freshman at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis. They own a grain farm. Larry is semi-retired.

Larry has grassroots legislative experience at both the state and federal level, gained when he served on several executive boards. He recently finished serving as a director for the state board of Minnesota Soybean Grower's Association. He was one of the founders of the McLeod County Corn Growers Association. He served as Chairman of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee, was previous Chairman of Crow River chapter sustainable farming association and was a supervisor on the Winsted Township Board. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Mayer and previously served as an elder there. With some of these board responsibilities behind him, Larry now has the time and the knowledge to serve on the McLeod Co-op Power board. In his spare time, he is a car racing enthusiast.

Larry believes we need to watch legislative actions and remain active in contacting legislators when bills could impact the Co-op. Larry is interested in sustaining the viability of our cooperative. He also said, "I think we have to continue to look for new ways to produce energy that are sustainable and affordable to our local cooperative power association. If elected I will work to address the individual concerns of members in District One."

District 2 includes:

Hassen Valley, Sumter and Penn Townships in McLeod County (There is no incumbent director in District 2. Dale Peters did not run for re-election.)



Joe Griebie

Joe has lived in Sumter Township and been involved in farming for 40 years. He raises corn, soybeans and kidney beans. Joe and his wife, Sheila, have three children (Ashley, Allison and Adam) and five grandchildren. His son Adam is now farming with him. His wife Sheila has worked for the Brownton Ag Center for 25 years.

Joe is a graduate of Hutchinson High School. He earned a B.S. in Math from Augustana College and received his teaching credits from Gustavus Adolphus College. He worked as a substitute teacher for 13 years, in addition to his farming career.

Joe served on the McLeod West School Board for nine years. He is a member of and past president of the Brownton Rod and Gun Club and a 25-year member of Ducks Unlimited. Joe is a member of and past president of the Brownton Lions. He currently serves as Chairman of the Sumter Township Board. He was a snowmobile safety instructor for 25 years also. Joe is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson.

Joe said, "I'd like the challenge of being on the MCPA board and of keeping the Co-op operating strong and efficiently with affordable costs and reliable service." He added, "I also want to keep an open mind to future energy changes. I will always be available for concerns and comments from MCPA members."



Dave Sanken

Dave has lived in Sumter Township all of his life. He is the fourth generation farming the land near Brownton. They grow corn, soybeans, and also raise dairy beef. Dave works part-time as a courier for Ridgeview Medical Center in Waconia and its clinics.

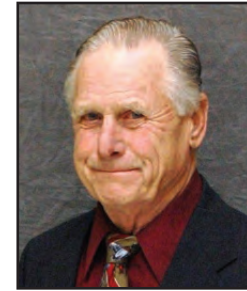
Dave has an Associate Degree in Agricultural Sales from the University of Minnesota at Waseca. He is a member and former board member at St. John's Lutheran Church, rural Hutchinson, and is now serving on the Benevolence Committee and Cemetery Board Association. In his spare time, Dave collects two-cylinder John Deere tractors and enjoys watching all sporting events, fishing, and spending time at the cabin in Alexandria.

Dave and his wife, Jodi, have two children: Michael, 23, who is employed at Foster Mechanical in Hutchinson, and Morgan, 20, who is a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter. Jodi is a teacher in the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted School District.

Dave would like to see the Cooperative continue to be a strong organization that provides low-cost electricity, while adding value to its members by original and forward thinking.

District 3 includes:

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



Roger Karstens

Roger is the incumbent director of District 3. He 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 line workers," 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 in 4-H and FFA through the years, and served on the committee that started the 4-H Auction. 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 Company. He served as president of the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association and was 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. Being involved personally with several legislators is important as they need to better understand how they vote on certain issues will affect McLeod Co-op Power and the rate our member-owners will pay for electricity." He thanks members for their support in the past and asks for their support now.



Dane Madsen

Dane and his wife Wendy, have lived in Hutchinson Township for more than ten years. Together they operate Madsen Tree Service. They do tree trimming, removal and stump grinding. Dane also does lawn mowing and snow removal services. The Madsen's have two teenage children, which they home-school.

Dane currently serves as president of Little Crow Archery Club and is on the board of the Minnesota State Archery Association. He also is a member of Gopher Campfire, helps organize the Youth Conservation Field Day, and volunteers as a gun safety instructor.

Dane grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota. He graduated from Clearbrook High School and from community college where he studied carpentry. Dane has been employed as a carpenter doing new construction and remodeling, and was also a supervisor at the Potlatch Lumber Mill in Bemidji, before moving to Hutchinson. He worked in the tool and die industry before starting Madsen Tree Service nine years ago. Dane has also completed Dale Carnegie Leadership Training.

"I would like to be involved in the Co-op to learn how it operates and to offer a new perspective," Dane said. He added, "I could bring fresh leadership skills that would be an advantage to the board."