

# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

March 2015

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Official publication of



## About 40 solar panel subscriptions are still available in community solar array

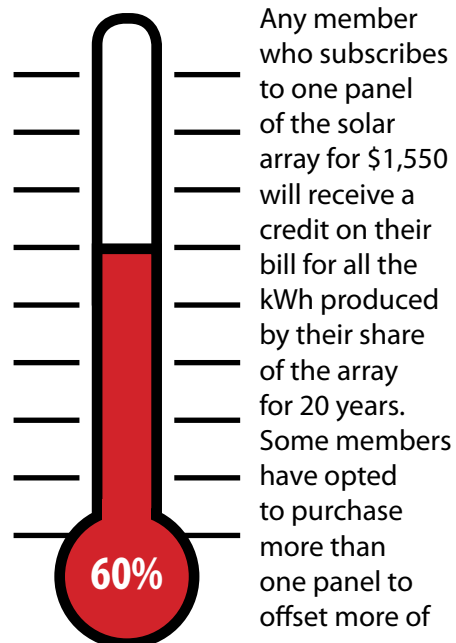
*Sign up to participate soon — before all the solar output is spoken for*

**T**he MCPA community solar garden is 60% sold out. As we get ready to break ground for excavating and construction, members continue to purchase subscriptions for the output from the array. The Cooperative is hopeful to have the community solar garden's 100 panels fully subscribed by the time the project is energized in late spring.



their monthly bill. It is a long-term investment, but also a very easy way to benefit from solar generation. The Co-op takes care of construction, insurance, repairs and maintenance. Members receive the full retail value of the kWh produced each month and, as the cost of electricity rises, so does the monthly credit.

For more details on the community solar project, call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 or visit our web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). A community solar Q&A page is on the web site, as well as a copy of the License Agreement for members to print and complete if they want to participate in the project.



## Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 14 Hutchinson Event Center

**Doors open 8:30 a.m.**  
**Entertainment 8:55 a.m.**  
**Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.**  
**Lunch to follow meeting**

## Candidates vie for director seats

**T**he Nominating Committee met in January and February to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 4, 5, & 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:** Doug Kirtz and Mark Koenig

**District 5:** Allan Duesterhoeft and John Lipke

**District 6:** Gary Burdorf and Darrel Mosel

Randy Bussler is also a candidate in District 6, as he has completed the nomination by petition process.

*See director profiles on page 8.*

## Journey with the Co-op to North Dakota

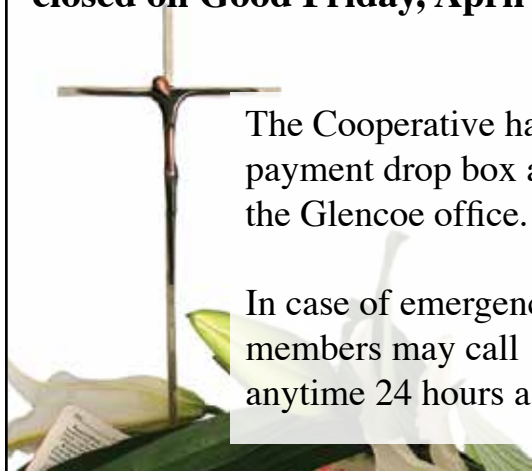
**M**CPA is currently accepting reservations for the 2015 Coal Creek Tour. Gather a few friends together and sign up. We would love to have you spend July 21-23 traveling with us to Jamestown, Bismarck, and Underwood, ND. The tour includes a drive-by bus tour of the new Spiritwood Station, Spiritwood Ag Energy ethanol plant, and Cargill malt plant, all near Jamestown, ND. The second day we tour Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, and Garrison Dam and finish the afternoon at the Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center (reconstructed and fully furnished fort, gift shop, and walking trails along the Missouri River). On the third day we tour the newly renovated North Dakota Heritage Center before heading back to Minnesota.

For just \$250 per person you get two nights lodging at the Hampton Inn, complimentary hotel breakfasts, motor coach transportation, three lunches, and tours of educational energy facilities and historical places.

Call Katie at McLeod Co-op Power to make your reservation today. We hope to fill the bus. Children must be at least 10 years old to attend the tour.



## McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3.



The Cooperative has a 24 hour payment drop box at the entry to the Glencoe office.

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

## Lignite Education Seminar: Energy, Economics & Environment

June 15 - 18, 2015 APPLY TODAY <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>

### Graduate credits available to teachers

Registration is open for the Lignite Energy Council's 30th annual Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment. The four-day seminar gives elementary, middle and high school teachers in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana and Iowa a first-hand look at North Dakota's fifth largest industry, lignite mining and related energy production. The seminar will be held June 15-18, at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck, N.D.

The seminar provides instruction on these topics and more: history, geology, land reclamation, environmental protection, economics of the lignite industry, the

need for more workers, energy conservation, and transmission. Besides the classroom instruction and the tours, teachers will take home handouts, videos, coal samples and activities that can be used in the classroom. Teachers who attend and complete a lesson plan can choose from one of three North Dakota institutions from which to receive two semester graduate credits: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University or Minot State University.

Great River Energy will sponsor up to 10 teachers at no cost to the participant. Teachers from all grade levels are encouraged to apply to the program. The online application for teachers is available at <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>.

## Manager's Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



### Why you should attend our annual meeting

It's that time of year again — annual meeting time! On behalf of McLeod Cooperative Power Association, we'd like to personally invite you to join us on April 14, 2015 at the Hutchinson Event Center. We look forward to gathering with you — members of the Co-op community — to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our Co-op community. It's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by McLeod Cooperative Power and get to know your Co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. It's also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op — voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

McLeod Cooperative Power is not owned by far-away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. We are run by a democratically elected board of directors — a board who is given the

privilege to serve because of your vote.

Our directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too. And don't forget — all members in good standing with McLeod Cooperative Power are eligible to run for the board — that includes you!

A democratic and open election is one of the many elements that make our electric cooperative stand out from other utilities. Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and your family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote for our state and federal Congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, so why not exercise it?

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. However, we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us on April 14 at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

### Board of Directors

**District 1**  
Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

**District 2**  
Joe Griebie, **Brownston**

**District 3**  
Roger Karstens, Vice President  
**Hutchinson**

**District 4**  
Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Hector**

**District 5**  
Allan Duesterhoeft, **Hutchinson**

**District 6**  
Lester Ranzau, **Glencoe**

**District 7**  
Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative  
**Silver Lake**

**District 8**  
Keith Peterson, President  
**Hector**

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

### McLeod Cooperative Power News

USPS 2220  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Hutchinson, MN  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
McLeod Cooperative Power News  
P O Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

The **McLeod Cooperative Power News** is published monthly for \$4.77 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk  
General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley

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.

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

**Phone: 320-864-3148**  
**1-800-494-6272**  
**24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685**  
**Fax: 320-864-4850**

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

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

## Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 26

Members residing in Districts 4, 5, & 6 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 26. 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 14, 2015.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 26.



### Annual Meeting entertainment to begin at 8:55 a.m.

Join your friends at the MCPA Annual Meeting for entertainment by the Medicine Show Music Company. They will be performing from 8:55 to 9:55 a.m., prior to the business meeting.

## McLeod Cooperative Power Association ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE Hutchinson Event Center, April 14, 2015

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center.....	8:30 A.M.
Entertainment by Medicine Show Music Co.....	8:55 A.M.
Meeting Called to Order .....	10:00 A.M.
Invocation .....	Lester Ranzau, Director
Pledge of Allegiance .....	All
Welcome .....	Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager
Establish a Quorum .....	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting.....	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting.....	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Dist 4, 5, & 6.....	Keith Peterson, President
Introduction of Directors in Districts 1-3 & 7-9.....	Keith Peterson, President
Financial Report.....	Jan Sanderson, Financial Services Manager
Closing of Ballots.....	Keith Peterson, President
President's Report .....	Keith Peterson, President
Manager's Report.....	Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager
Washington D.C. Youth Tour Report.....	Nina Grunzke
Announcement of Operation Round Up Recipients ....	Operation Round Up Trust Board
Introduction of Nominating Committee .....	Keith Peterson, President
Election Report .....	Nominating Committee Chairman
Unfinished Business .....	Keith Peterson, President
New Business.....	Keith Peterson, President
Adjournment	
Table Prayer .....	Randy Hlavka, Director
Drawing for Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize (\$300 electric bill credit) ...	Sue Pawelk
Lunch to follow meeting .....	Catered by Chef Craig



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

## The 2015 Nominating Committee



Members of this year's Nominating Committee selected candidates from Districts 4, 5 and 6, whose name will appear on the ballot for director elections in their districts. Members serving on this year's Nominating Committee are (standing L to R) Donovan Grochow, Ray Gruenwald, Richard Kramer and Charles Bleck, (seated L to R) Larry Podratz, Lowell E. Peterson, Paul Merkins, and Thomas Maiers.

# Stay safe around breaker boxes

We use electricity in our homes throughout the day, but we rarely think about how it gets to the wall outlets or switches.

Distribution lines bring electricity to homes and most commonly connect to a house through a service drop. The electricity goes through the meter box to the service panel, which is typically found in a basement or garage. The service panel, often called a breaker box, is where breakers and fuses protect the wires inside your house from electrical overload.

With so much electricity funneling out of the breaker box through the rest of the home to your outlets and switches, it is important to not only know how to use a breaker box, but also how to do so safely.

In a recent study, the National Fire Protection Association estimated that between 2007 and 2011, 1,350 home fires involved the circuit breaker panel, causing 18 deaths. Many of these fires could have been prevented with the installation of arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI). AFCIs are installed directly in the breaker box and are designed to protect against fires caused by arcing faults in home electrical wiring. AFCIs detect arcing in the electrical system and switch the electricity off.

“Unwanted arcing can create high temperatures that can ignite walls and nearby combustible materials — such as wood and carpets,” explains electrical inspector Mike Ashenfelter, member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. “If you are interested in making your home safer by installing AFCIs, contact a qualified electrician to do so.”

Arcing faults can be triggered by overloaded circuits, damaged wires, cracked wire insulation, loose/improper connections, faulty electrical equipment, and overheated electrical wires.

An AFCI monitors current flow and can distinguish between normal, working arcs and unwanted, dangerous arcs. When an unwanted arcing condition is detected, it shuts down the circuit. It is important to note that AFCIs do not provide protection against all of the possible circuit faults that can cause fires, but they are a significant step forward in electrical fire safety.

If an appliance is malfunctioning, there is another electrical malfunction in your home, or if the circuit breaker flipped during a power outage, it may be necessary to cut off or switch on the power at the breaker box.

If you must flip a switch at the breaker box, always remember to step away and look away. You want to protect your eyes and body just in case an arc should occur.

Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you touch the breaker box while standing in water, it could cause electric shock or death. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call the Co-op to shut off power at the meter.

Be sure to call a qualified electrician or your landlord if blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers are a



recurring problem. This means there is something wrong with your electrical system and it needs to be checked.

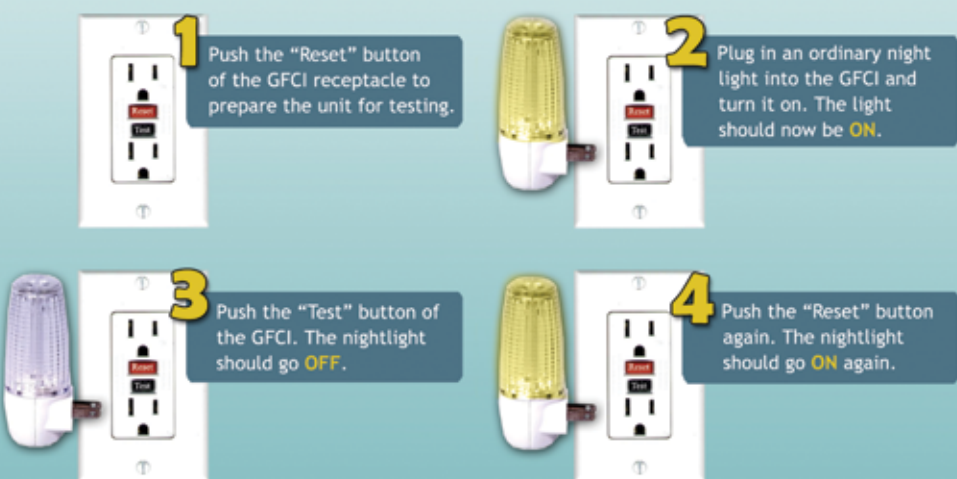
The Co-op is a great resource when planning any remodeling or addition project. They can help determine if your electric service, and your breaker box, should be sized up to meet your needs.

For more information on safety around electricity, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).  
© Molly Hall, Safe Electricity

## How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

## Stay Grounded with GFCI Outlets

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets are the most efficient outlet to protect you and your family from electric shock when using household appliances. If these outlets sense a loss of current, the outlet switches the power off to that circuit.

Code requires them in baths, kitchens, laundry rooms, garages and outdoor locations. GFCIs have saved thousands of lives and cut the number of electrocutions in half since the 1970s.

When you look at a normal 120-volt outlet in the United States, there are two vertical slots and then a round hole centered below them. The left slot is slightly larger than the right. The left slot is called "neutral," the right slot is called "hot" and the hole below them is called "ground." If an appliance is working properly, all electricity that the appliance uses will flow from hot to neutral. A GFCI monitors the amount of current flowing from hot to neutral. If there is any imbalance, it trips the circuit. It is able to sense a mismatch as small as 4 or 5

milliamps, and it can react as quickly as one-thirtieth of a second.

So let's say you are outside with your power drill and it is raining. You are



standing on the ground, and since the drill is wet there is a path from the hot wire inside the drill through you to ground. If electricity flows from hot to ground through you, it could be fatal. The GFCI can sense the current flowing through you because not all of the current is flowing from hot to neutral as it expects -- some of it is flowing through you to ground. As soon as the GFCI

senses that, it trips the circuit and cuts off the electricity.

GFCIs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working effectively. After 10 years or so, the sensitive circuitry inside a GFCI can wear out. If this is the case, have a qualified electrician replace it as soon as possible.

See the steps (left) to test your own outlets. It's best to test once a month.

# Renters' Tips to Save on Utility Bills

**Y**ou don't have to own a home to be energy wise. There are plenty of things you can do to cut your monthly utility bills, too! These tips will show you how to be more energy efficient. If there are things you can't change on your own, share these tips and encourage your landlord to help you make a change for the better.

## 1 Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy.

- Replacing your five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR qualified lights can save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. ENERGY STAR qualified light emitting diodes (LEDs) provide high-quality light output, use at least 75% less energy, and last up to 25 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs.
- Remember to always turn off your lights when leaving a room. Turning off just one 60-watt incandescent bulb that would otherwise burn eight hours a day can save about \$15 per year!

## 2 Considering purchasing a room air conditioner? Consider an ENERGY STAR qualified model.

*They use at least 10 percent less energy than standard models.*

- In the winter, be sure to insulate room air conditioners from the outside with a tight-fitting A/C unit cover, available at your local home improvement center or hardware store. This keeps heated air from escaping outside. Alternately, you can remove the window unit in the winter months to prevent energy losses.
- Be sure the window unit fits tightly in the window so outdoor air is not getting in.

**3** If possible, install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping. When used properly, a programmable thermostat with its four temperature settings can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs.

- Proper use means setting the thermostat at energy-saving temperatures without overriding that setting.
- You should also set the "hold" button at a constant energy-saving temperature when you're away or on vacation.



## 4 Consumer electronics play an increasingly larger role in your home's energy consumption, accounting for 15 percent of household electricity use.

Many consumer electronic products use energy even when switched off. Electronics equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR rating helps save energy when off, while maintaining features like clock displays, channel settings, and remote-control functions.

- Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use (like your cell phone charger!).
- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using equipment.

Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity. For home office equipment, this stand-by or "phantom" power load can range

from a few watts to as much as 20 or even 40 watts for each piece of equipment. Using a power strip for your computer and all peripheral equipment allows you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating standby power consumption.

## 5 A ten minute shower can use less water than a full bath.

With a new 2.5 gallon-per-minute (low-flow) shower head, a 10-minute shower will use about 25 gallons of water, saving you five gallons of water over a typical bath. A new showerhead also will save energy — up to \$145 each year on electricity — beating out both the bath and an old-fashioned showerhead.

- To avoid moisture problems, control humidity in your bathroom by running your ventilating fan during and 15 minutes after showers and baths.

## Worried about Water in Your Basement This Spring?

Prevent expensive water damage with a water sensor from Heartland Security.

Our system will notify you immediately if your sump pump stops working or water starts leaking into your home.

Call us today and be prepared before the spring rains turn into a headache!



**Heartland Security**

A Subsidiary of:  
**Meeker Cooperative**  
Light and Power Association

**McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER**

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## Industry News

### Reducing waste while still enjoying your shower

**S**howering drives almost 17 percent of water use in homes, and an average American family uses some 40 gallons of water per day in the shower. This amounts to 1.2 trillion gallons of water in the United States each year, says EPA, "enough to supply the water needs of New York and New Jersey" over the same time period. If 20 percent of that is wasted (by waiting for the water to get hot) well, you're talking about over 200 billion gallons.

What's more, because water coming out of shower heads is supposed to be hot water, showers are also energy hogs. They're typically one of the largest drags on the hot water heater in the home, and water heating itself accounts for almost 17 percent of total home electricity, according to the Department of Energy. Thus, cutting back on hot water waste in showers has a double benefit, saving water and power.

"It's taking longer and longer for hot water to arrive at the shower or other points of use over the home," says Troy Sherman, one of the founders of Evolve Technologies, which makes water-saving shower products. "So people have started to develop a habit of turning on their shower, then leaving and walking away, and going and doing other things as they wait for the hot water to arrive."

So, what are the solutions — at least for those of us who are actually willing to make some changes?

#### Install an EPA-certified shower head.

The EPA's WaterSense program now labels water efficient shower heads, certifying those whose flow rates are below 2 gallons per minute. The agency asserts that "the average family could save 2,900 gallons per year" with one of these shower heads — and that in energy terms, that translates into "370 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, enough to power a house for [seven or more] days."

#### Cut down behavioral waste with a shower valve.

Evolve Technologies has designed a "thermostatic shut-off valve" that can be installed behind the shower head. The device lets cold water flow out when the shower is first turned on, but then tamps down on any more flow when water hotter than 95 degrees arrives. So when water stops flowing in the shower, you know hot water has arrived, and then you can get in and pull a cord to manually turn the flow back on.

#### What about saving cold water, too?

And then, there's the issue of trying to cut down on the waste of cold water before the hot water even arrives at the shower. To address this, the company Advanced Conservation Technology Inc. manufactures a device that sits beneath the sink at the water outlet that's furthest from your hot water heater, and can be activated wirelessly or by a button.

When you turn it on, the device sends the lukewarm or cool water that's sitting in your pipes to the water heater, thus allowing new hot water to come to where you want it to be. The company says that the result is "getting hot water to the fixtures three to four times faster (on average)" — and of course that means less cold water running out when you turn the shower on.

~The Washington Post

## January Outage Summary

January had very few outages. McLeod Cooperative Power had a total of six outages, affecting 25 consumers. The largest outage affected 12 consumers on January 9 at about 9:45 a.m. near Winthrop.

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.

## 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 **Mar. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please check  
ad category

- Giveaway  
 For Rent  
 For Sale  
 Wanted

#### For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Wood student size desk. 507-351-1855
- Oak cabinet with glass doors. 507-351-1855
- GX345 JD lawn mower, 54 inch deck, 733 hours. \$3,000. 320-579-0267
- Winpower 50/30 PTO driven alternator w/trailer and cord. 507-327-1869
- 42 inch JD snow blower w/chains, hydraulic. \$1,000/obo. 320-327-2472
- Silo staves 10 inch X 30 inch. \$2.50/a piece. 952-457-5034
- Silo doors. \$20/a piece. 952-457-5034

- Adam Schaaf upright piano. Good condition. \$100. 320-587-3639
- Kenmore gas dryer, heavy duty, great condition. \$99. 320-583-0471

#### For Sale - Farm

- 4X5 round grass hay bales, shedded. 320-864-5095
- JD 21 ft disk, tandem wheels, fold up wings. \$1,000. 320-833-2155
- Laying hens coop, metal wall hanging, six compartments. \$25. 320-587-8065
- JD automatic pickup baler, No 114W. For Restoration. \$800. 320-238-2104
- Small square corn stalk bales. \$2/obo. 320-296-6061

#### Giveaway

- Toshiba 36 inch TV. Works good. 320-582-1758
- Complete baby crib, very good condition. 612-803-4475

#### Wanted

- Boer goat does or doelings. 507-381-1349
- Two lengths roll out dock, 8 or 10 foot. 952-657-2306

**Cleaning out your garage, attic or spare room? Try listing it for free in the MCPA classifieds.**

**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.**

## Deadline for power line worker scholarship

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2015-16 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, 2015.



Mark Sandberg, South Central Electric Board President, and Susan Hunstad present Ray Eberhard, Glencoe, a \$500 scholarship in memory of former South Central Electric meter foreman Daron Hunstad.

## Glencoe man awarded Daron Hunstad Memorial Scholarship

South Central Electric Association presented Ray Eberhard of Glencoe a \$500 scholarship on February 6, 2015 at their facility in St. James. The scholarship was in memory of former South Central Electric meter foreman Daron Hunstad, who passed away in 2012. The scholarship was available to students attending the Powerline Technology program at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson.

Mark Sandberg, South Central Electric Board President, stated "Daron was a graduate of the program in Jackson and we thought this was a great way to honor his memory and support future power linemen." Mark Sandberg and Susan Hunstad presented Ray his scholarship.

Ray Eberhard is in his first year at Jackson. Ray grew up on a dairy farm near Glencoe, MN. His parents are Bob and Gloria Eberhard, who are members of McLeod Co-op Power. While attending school, Ray works with his family on their farm and construction business. Ray was also awarded a power line worker scholarship in 2014 from McLeod Co-op Power.

# Frequently Asked Questions about Digital Meters

McLeod Cooperative Power (MCPA) is installing new, digital meters to replace the meters with Turtle meter reading devices, which are no longer being manufactured or supported. The new digital meters have the capability to help the Co-op improve the efficiency and reliability of our electric system, as well as sending meter readings to the Co-op. Below are some of the questions we anticipate you may have and the answers. If you have additional questions, feel free to call the Co-op office at 1-800-494-6272.

## When will my meter be installed?

Meter replacements began the end of February and will continue for 12-18 months, until all meters have been replaced.

## Who will be changing out the meters?

Chapman Metering is the contractor the Co-op has hired to install most of the new meters. Some meters may be installed by Co-op employees.

## Will I lose electrical service during the installation?

Yes, for a few minutes. You will need to reset electronic clocks and other devices.



A meter technician from Chapman Metering will be installing new meters for the Co-op. His van has both the Chapman Metering logo and McLeod Co-op Power magnetic signs.

## How will I know if my meter has been changed?

The Co-op employee or contractor will leave a door hanger on your door to let you know they have changed the meter. We will work with businesses to minimize any inconvenience. You do not have to be present during the meter change.

## Why are we changing to the automated meters?

The Turtle system that the Co-op has used since 2004 is no longer being manufactured or supported and we can no longer get replacement parts. An alternative system to get meter readings into the office was needed.

The Co-op chose a system that we believe will work well in our geographic area. The old system provided a meter reading every 27 hours. The new system will send the Cooperative meter readings several times a day, which will be a great tool for

employees and members when analyzing energy use.

## How much is this going to cost?

The cost to replace the meters has been included in the Cooperative's 2015-2018 Construction Work Plan. This is where improvements to equipment on the distribution system are budgeted for and financed over several years, just like when poles or lines are replaced. There will be no individual charge to the member when their meter(s) are installed.

## What other additional installation parts will I need?

No additional parts are anticipated or required. However, if something is identified as faulty or hazardous with equipment at a member's metering point, the Co-op will replace it if we can, or notify the member if repairs to equipment they own are required.

# Things are not always what they appear to be

## Scams

Be on the look-out for scams that try to steal your money or personal data. The newest one we have heard about from a Co-op in Colorado is the scam that mimics the Google Calendar. You receive a Google Calendar invitation in your inbox, and it claims to be from your electric cooperative, telling you that your Co-op electric bill is available. If you ever receive such an e-mail, call the Co-op before clicking on it. This kind of e-mail is usually a phishing scam, looking to steal your personal information.

McLeod Co-op Power goes to great lengths to protect our membership and the information you have trusted to us. Please call our office any time you question the authenticity of someone claiming to be from MCPA.

## Free dinner invite to hear sales pitch for energy conservation products

Many area members recently received invitations from a company selling a variety of energy conservation devices, gadgets, and weatherization materials. The Co-op is not involved in putting on or promoting any of these meetings. Products and services promoted may or may not be legitimate. The Co-op just wants to remind you that before paying any money to purchase a product or service from a company that is not local and that you do not know personally, take time to check them out first with the Better Business Bureau or State Attorney General's Office. If you are purchasing a weatherization or energy saving device call the Minnesota Energy Information Center at 1-800-657-3710 or check with the energy experts at the Co-op if you need help assessing if the product will actually deliver the energy savings you are being promised.

## MCPA not associated with Conservation Minnesota survey

Conservation Minnesota has distributed a survey to residents of several Minnesota communities. Some of our neighboring cooperatives have had these surveys distributed to their members. We just want our members to be clear, that if you did receive such a survey, it is not affiliated with or endorsed by McLeod Cooperative Power. This is an independent organization that is surveying people's opinions.

# Rebate program for 2015

## 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

Recycling of old refrigerator or freezer with documented proof of recycling ..... \$75

LED Yard Light ..... \$60

ENERGY STAR Swimming Pool

Variable speed pump ..... \$200

Air source heat pump ..... \$400

\* 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 2015. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

Rebate forms must be received by Dec. 21, 2015 to be eligible for 2015 rebates.

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

The Nominating Committee met its requirements to select two candidates in each district, whose names shall appear on the ballot for Districts 4, 5 & 6. In addition, Randy Bussler has completed the Nomination by Petition process to be listed as a candidate in District 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.



### Doug Kirtz

Doug is the director in District 4 and currently serves as the board secretary.

Doug and Lorie, along with their children Seth, Eli and Sadie operate Kirtz Farms by Hector. They run a 550 sow farrow-to-wean hog operation.

Doug and his family are members of St. John's Lutheran Church and he is a trustee on the church council. He has served as president and vice-president of the Renville County Pork Producers. He is currently Scout Cub Master, den leader and helps with youth sports.

Doug is interested in keeping our Cooperative fiscally sound, with good, reliable service for its members. He will strive to keep the Cooperative strong today and into the future for our next generation. As a consumer of electricity, Doug knows the need for cost-efficient prices along with a need for reliable and excellent service.



### Mark Koenig

Mark lives in Preston Lake Township and he has been a resident of Renville County most of his life. Currently Mark serves as the District One Soil and Water Supervisor in Renville County, as vice-chairperson of the soil and water board and on their personnel

committee. He is assistant township clerk for Hector Township. He also serves on the Cemetery Board of the United Methodist Church of Buffalo Lake.

Mark is self-employed as a crop farmer. Previously, he worked in education as a teacher for 28 years. He is a graduate of Minnesota State University in Mankato with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

Some of his interests include animals, history, conservation, native plants and wildlife, various sports, politics, and social justice.

Mark stated that he is pleased with the work and progress of the Cooperative and is also impressed with the personnel there. He added, "My interest in the environment and hopefully a sustainable future for present and future generations is a major reason for my high interest in energy sources such as solar and wind power."

## District 5 includes:

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



### Allan Duesterhoeft

Allan is the incumbent director in District 5. He lives in Lynn Township, about eight miles southwest of Hutchinson. He farms 160 acres raising corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and feeds Holstein steers.

Allan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church where he serves as congregation treasurer and teaches Sunday School.

Allan would like to continue serving as a director because of the tremendous importance electricity has in our lives. The government mandates and restrictions on electricity generation are not going away. This is just one reason communication with the membership is so important. Minnesota has a net metering law which basically states that a utility must buy any excess generation from a member at the same price that it charges. This is why the community solar project MCPA has started is good, because all costs will be covered by those who subscribe to the panels.



### John Lipke

John has lived in Collins Township since the early 1980's. He and his wife Sandy were involved in farming the original 160 acres while raising and showing purebred Arabian horses. At one time they had seventeen brood mares and spent a lot of their time

baling hay and straw as well as producing some cash crop. Sandy was a school teacher at Hutchinson, Stewart, McLeod West and BOLD.

John is a Stewart graduate having spent almost his entire life in the Stewart area. He is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College

in St Peter where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and History. He has been involved in the local business community in the areas of finance, insurance, and tax. He currently prepares income tax returns while doing financial and tax consulting work for area small business and farmers.

John has always had a passion for MCPA. His grandfather John was a founder of MCPA and a former board member. This relationship instilled in John at an early age the importance of the cooperative model to our rural area including our surrounding city neighbors. John believes his combined business and farming background can be a real asset to the challenges facing MCPA in today's changing environment. He asks for your vote in the coming election and will do his best to serve you in maintaining low-cost power for your farm, business, and home while keeping an open door to listen to your needs and concerns.

## District 6 includes:

New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden, and Transit Townships, all in Sibley County. (There is no incumbent director in District 6. Lester Ranzau did not run for re-election.)



### Gary Burdorf

Gary farms 120 acres (beef and crops) in Green Isle Township, Sibley County. He has lived on the farm for 42 years where he and his wife Carol raised four children. They also have soon-to-be six grandchildren.

Gary is a graduate of Sibley East High School. He served in the US Army and is a Vietnam veteran. Besides farming, he has also been a full-time bus driver for Sibley East for the past 26 years.

Gary has been a Green Isle Township Supervisor for 19 years, MN Association of Townships Director for four years, and has served as a trustee for MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust. Gary serves on the Governor's Clean Water Council. He has experience lobbying at the state and federal level. He is also a life-long member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arlington.

Gary would like to work together with the current board to help make our Co-op run smoothly and he feels that it is very important to stay in tune with local, and particularly rural, needs.



### Darrel Mosel

Darrel is a dairy, livestock, and crop farmer in Dryden Township in Sibley County, where he and his wife Diane, have lived since 1981. They have two children.

Darrel is a graduate of Truman High School and has a B.A. in Economics from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He served as a state legislator for McLeod and Sibley Counties from 1992-1994. He has also served as president and treasurer

of the UCC Church in Gaylord, and served on their congregational care and community outreach teams. He has been a member of the Service to Mankind (service club) in Gaylord the past 25 years, is a member of the Minnesota Farmer's Union and the Land Stewardship Organization.

Darrel stated that he has a good understanding of the governmental process and would work to improve legislation, such as finding a fair resolution to net metering for all our members. Darrel feels he could work to find common ground with board members and promote fiscal responsibility at MCPA.



### Randy Bussler

Randy grew up on a McLeod County farm. He and his wife Verona have lived on a hobby farm in New Auburn Township since 1977. They have one son and one granddaughter.

Randy graduated from Brownton High School. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He has attended Northwestern Electronics Institute, Minneapolis Vo-Tech School, and Ridgewater College. Randy is a semi-retired electrician, having spent nearly 40 years in the electrical industry.

Randy is a member of the Glencoe American Legion and VFW. He has served on the Habitat for Humanity board. He currently serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees at First Lutheran Church in Glencoe, and previously served on the Board of Deacons there. He is also an associate member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Brownton, where he serves on the board.

Randy shared, "I have experience serving on boards and would like to keep it a strong Co-op with affordable rates." One issue he would like to address is the solar program.