

# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

April 2015

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## Official publication of



## Members gathered at Annual Meeting



A crowd of about 400 members listened to reports by General Manager Carrie Buckley and other Co-op directors and staff.

The members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association gathered for the 80th annual meeting of the Cooperative on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the Hutchinson Event Center. About 400 members and guests attended the business meeting and were served lunch following the meeting.

Three directors were elected for a three-year term each: Doug Kirtz of Hector, Allan Dueterhoeft of Hutchinson, and Gary Burdorf of Arlington were elected to serve Districts, 4, 5, and 6, respectively.

Board President Keith Peterson spoke about a new online store available to members for ordering LED light bulbs and energy products. He also recognized retiring director Lester Ranzau for 45 years of service to the Co-op.



Directors elected to three year terms were (l to r) Doug Kirtz of Hector, Allan Dueterhoeft of Hutchinson, and Gary Burdorf of Arlington.

Financial Services Manager Jan Sanderson reported on the financial condition of MCPA.

General Manager Carrie L. Buckley updated members on activities and accomplishments at the Co-op in recent months including recognition for safety achievements, few outages, the metering project, Community Solar and linemen appreciation day.



The Medicine Show Music Company entertained members prior to the start of the meeting.

Lester Ranzau was recognized for 45 years of service to MCPA as a director. He chose not to run for re-election this year. He served for 22 years as president of the Co-op, many years as vice-president and as a rep on the Cooperative Power and Great River Energy Board of Directors.



Operation RoundUp Board Member Cheryl Beilke encouraged members to participate in Operation RoundUp and announced winners of 2015 donations.

Nina Grunzke of Hutchinson High School spoke about her 2014 Washington D.C. Youth Tour trip.

Gary Connett, guest speaker, reported on changes at Great River Energy, the Co-op's power supplier.

General Manager Carrie Buckley presents Mavis Weber of Winsted with her \$300 electric bill credit. Weber was the grand prize winner at the meeting.



## Delivery of bills and receipt of payments being delayed by postal service changes

If you mail your payment in each month, you will now need to allow three or more days for delivery to make sure it arrives by the 28th due date to avoid a late payment charge. Recent changes at the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) mean we can no longer rely upon next-day delivery.

On January 5, the USPS lowered its service standards for delivery of First Class and Periodicals Mail. The Co-op has received many calls from members who received their electric bills several days late, even though they were

mailed on the Co-op's regular schedule.

We verified through the USPS website that this change in service standards will mean longer processing time for First Class Mail. The USPS estimates that only 20 percent of First Class Mail volume is expected to be delivered overnight, and the remaining 80 percent will take at least 2-3 days, even from one address to another within the same town.

The Co-op recommends that members either sign up for the automatic bank draft program

or make sure to mail payments several days before they are due. Many of our members use automatic bank draft, as it is the most secure and cost-effective method of payment for both you and the Co-op. To sign up for our Bank Draft program you can contact our office at 1-800-494-6272 or download the pdf authorization form from our website. Visit our website at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com), select Customer Service tab, and then select Payment Options to view the details of the Direct Payment Plan.

## Manager's Message —

by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



# The value of electric cooperatives

## Why being a member of a co-op saves you money

There are three main types of electricity providers in the U.S. Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) serve primarily densely populated areas. Municipal-owned utilities also serve densely populated cities from the very large, such as Los Angeles, to the very small like Arlington, MN. And of course, there are rural electric cooperatives like McLeod Cooperative Power that serve less populated parts of the country.

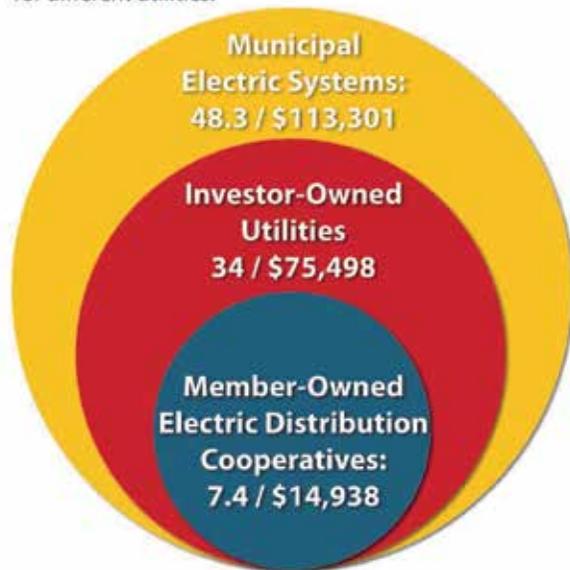
In the utility business, population matters a lot. Since the costs to serve any given area are similar, the more customers that you have allows you to spread the costs among more people to keep rates lower. At least that is the theory.

The graphic below shows the national averages

### Revenue in Review

Because of higher population densities (more consumers served per mile of line), municipal electric systems and investor-owned utilities receive more revenue per mile of line than electric cooperatives.

Consumers served/revenue per mile of line for different utilities:



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, September 2013

of density and revenue per mile of electrical line for IOUs, municipal-owned utilities and electric co-ops. Municipal-owned utilities, which operate in cities and towns, have the greatest density — 48.3 customers per mile of line, generating an average of \$113,301 of revenue. IOUs follow with 34 customers per mile of line, while generating average revenues of \$75,498. Finally, electric co-ops average 7.4 members (not customers, but members) per mile of line, bringing in an average of \$14,938 of revenue per mile.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association serves 3 members per mile generating \$10,934 of revenue per mile.

If I were to give this data to any business school in the country and ask (based on this information) what the rates should be for each of the utilities, the answer would likely be that electric co-ops would have a rate 7.5 times greater than municipal-owned utilities and 5 times higher than IOUs — but that is not the case. Why not?

It has to do with the business model. IOUs are owned by outside investors that may or may not be users of the electric utility they own. These companies' stocks are traded on Wall Street, and those investors demand a return on their investment. This drives up the price that their customers pay. Many municipal systems charge rates that generate a "profit" for their cities to help pay for other services. McLeod Cooperative Power operates on a not-for-profit basis. Of course, we are a business and must generate enough revenue to cover costs (the largest being the purchase of wholesale power). But we don't have to charge rates to pay outside stockholders.

Since our members are our owners, we can provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you. That is just another way your Co-op brings you value.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

## Minnesota Secretary of State visited MCPA



General Manager Carrie Buckley and Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon exchanged ideas during his visit to MCPA on March 30.

Steve Simon, the new Minnesota Secretary of State, visited McLeod Cooperative Power on March 30. He stopped in during a several county road trip, to acknowledge MCPA as the longest continually registered business in Glencoe. MCPA has been registered as a business with the State of Minnesota since October 18, 1934 and has never once missed its renewal.

While at MCPA, Simon visited with General Manager Carrie Buckley and some of the management staff about regulation, energy generation, business growth, and a variety of topics during his 30-minute stop. Local media also attended and were able to ask Secretary Simon questions related to voter issues and plans he has for increasing Minnesota voter participation.

### 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

Gary Burdorf, **Arlington**

#### 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

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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

# Safety in the schools



Fourth grade students at Sibley East in Gaylord posed for a photo in front of the line truck.



Lineman Ryan Schuette and a student from Sibley East Schools in Gaylord show off some of the gear worn by line workers.

Employees from McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) presented electrical safety programs in several area schools. In February and March, MCPA put on electrical safety presentations for Grade 2 in Glencoe-Silver Lake, Grades 3-5 at Our Savior's Lutheran School in Hutchinson, Grade 4 at Sibley East in Arlington and Gaylord, and Grades 3-7 at St. Paul's Lutheran in Gaylord.



Safety presentations include a 15 minute safety video called "Safety World" discussing dangerous situations and the appropriate actions for students to take. Linemen explain the safety gear used by line workers to stay safe and some students get to try on the gear. This year the program is sponsored by Dairy Queen, meaning each participant receives a DQ treat coupon.

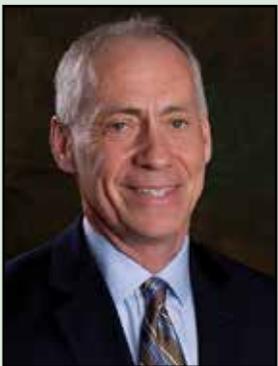


## Tune up your cooling unit and receive a \$25 credit

### Announcing the 2015 air conditioning tune-up program.

Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least 5 years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon below. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor's invoice. His tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.

## Connett testified before Congress to save large water heaters



Gary Connett, Great River Energy

Hundreds of electric cooperatives rely on large capacity, electric-resistance water heaters in their demand response programs. But federal regulations will make them a thing of the past unless Congress acts quickly, a co-op official told a House panel.

Gary Connett, director of demand-side management and member services at Maple Grove, Minn.-based Great River Energy, urged House members to keep grid-enabled water heaters as part of the mix.

"Electric cooperatives are responsible for over 20 percent of the nation's actual peak reduction. This is largely accomplished through the trusty water heater, the most common household appliance," Connett told the House Energy and Power Subcommittee March 19.

"Reducing peak demand reduces emissions and fuel use, saves cooperatives' consumer-members tens of millions of dollars per year and, in many cases, defers the need for new electric generation."

Effective April 16, Department of Energy rules will ban the manufacture of electric-resistance water heaters with a storage capacity of more than 55 gallons.

Through demand response programs, high-efficiency water heaters store low-cost energy as hot water during off-peak hours. That allows for the optimization of renewable energy and more efficient operation of the electric grid, said Connett.

While heat pump water heaters are used and promoted within the cooperative community as an energy-efficient technology, they do not work as well with utility demand response programs or in cold climates, he noted.

"Most importantly, these large capacity water heaters play an important role in Great River Energy's and other cooperatives' efforts to provide its member-owners with safe, reliable, and affordable electric energy," Connett said.

NRECA is backing legislation by subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., to permit the continued manufacture of water heaters above 75 gallons for specific use in demand response programs.

Representatives Peter Welch, D-Vt.; Bob Latta, R-Ohio; David Loebsack, D-Iowa; Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., and Mike Doyle, D-Pa., are cosponsors of the bill, H.R. 906.

Senate action is also anticipated. Senators last year voted 94-5 to sustain large water heaters through an amendment by Senator Rob Portman, R-Ohio that was attached to the controversial Keystone Pipeline bill, which was later vetoed.

### Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company doing Tune-Up \_\_\_\_\_  
 Technician's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

#### CHECK LIST

Brand Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Model # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tons/BTU Rating \_\_\_\_\_ SEER Rating \_\_\_\_\_

- Clean Outdoor Unit
- Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
- Check Blower Belt
- Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
- Compressor Amp Reading Check
- Blower & Oil
- Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
- Check Filter
- Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Technician Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Why heat pumps beat central air conditioners

A smarter solution is available for members seeking a way to more efficiently heat and cool their home year-round: air source heat pumps (ASHPs).

Able to deliver super-efficient home heating and air conditioning, ASHPs help members realize savings in energy consumption as well as cost. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, an ASHP can reduce electricity use associated with home heating and cooling by up to 72 percent.

Since heating and cooling account for more than half the total energy consumed in a typical household, members can realize tremendous savings by making the switch.

While earlier generations of ASHPs were primarily used in the southern part of the U.S., new generation ASHPs can be used in nearly all parts of the country. They are an especially viable option for Midwestern homes during the spring and autumn months when outdoor temperatures are milder.

## How it works

ASHPs use the same technologies that are found in refrigerators and air conditioners, and deliver cooling and heating by moving heat to and from the outdoor air.

During the summer when cooling your home, the ASHP works just like a central air conditioner, moving heat from inside your home and transferring it outside. An ASHP has the ability to reverse this process for heating: the ASHP harvests heat from outside air and transfers it into your home. The result is that homeowners are able to run their furnaces less and get extremely efficient heating.

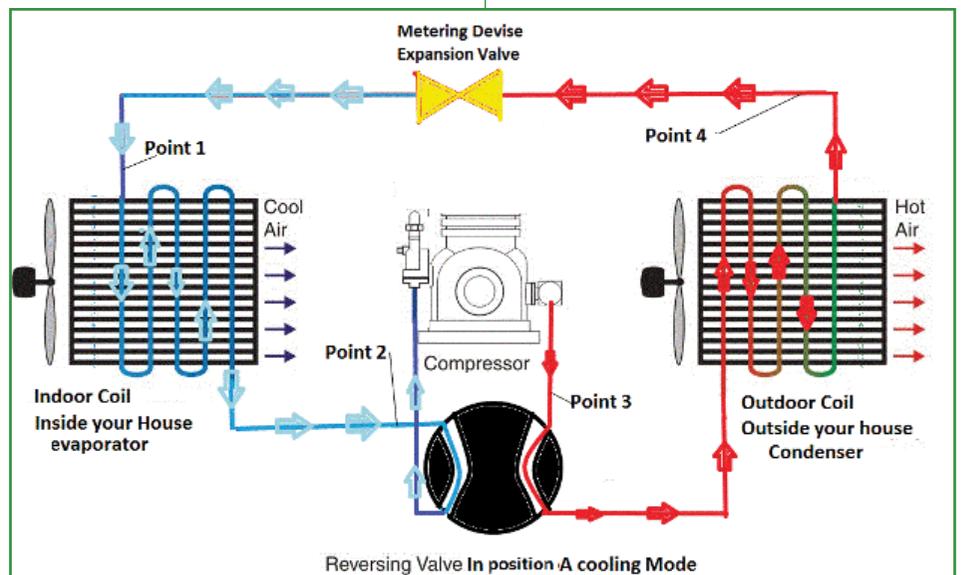
Both of these options can be controlled from a thermostat while the home heating function is also able to work in tandem with conventional propane furnaces. The product will automatically select the most ideal balance between the two sources to maintain the most efficient heating combination based on a homeowner's desired indoor temperature.



ASHPs contain two sets of coils, a compressor and a fan that circulates cooled or warmed air. The key to its ability to heat or cool is a special reversing valve that changes the refrigerant flow's direction, allowing the unit to seamlessly switch between air conditioning and heating.

life means less pollution associated with discarding old units or parts and manufacturing their replacements.

In winter, the warmth provided by ASHP technology is superior in quality compared to conventional furnaces. The heat distributed by ASHP is distributed more evenly and



**Members can realize savings of up to 30 percent on home cooling**  
An ASHP's efficiency will save considerably over other conventional air conditioning units. By moving heat, the ASHP is able to transfer a greater amount of energy than it consumes, which means that an ASHP can have effective heating efficiencies of 300 percent or more.

ASHPs provide an efficient, safe, environmentally-friendly solution for home comfort conditioning as well. They don't use an open flame or create products of combustion – such as carbon monoxide and other emissions – so there is no need for venting and their extended equipment

holds its moisture better, resulting in more natural, comfortable warmth.

It's also an attractive purchasing decision, since one unit provides both cooling and heating functions. It works very well in the Co-op's energy management programs and can qualify for our low electric rate to save even more.

Our Energy Management Technicians are always ready and willing to answer your specific questions about heat pumps or another of our programs. Why not give them a call and see for yourself which unit makes the most sense for your home?

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

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

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Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.

TRAVELERS  
Common Ground Alliance

## Constant attention keeps decades-old plants modern



Great River Energy's coal-based generation resources have served cooperative members for decades. In fact, the electrons flowing from Stanton Station surely lit up a lava lamp or two in the late 1960s. And current from Coal Creek Station almost certainly powered some arcades and roller rinks in the 1980s.

The way we people consume electricity has changed dramatically over the past 40 years. Great River Energy's power plants have kept pace, consistently improving efficiency and environmental performance through the years.

Coal Creek Station's performance places it among the top performing plants of its kind in the nation. In 2013, the plant ranked No. 9 on Power Engineering's list of U.S. power plants in power factor, a critical measurement of a power plant's actual energy output compared to its potential output.

When it began operations in 1979, Coal Creek Station generated around 1 or 2 million net megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity to meet Great River Energy's members' demand. Today it consistently produces approximately 9 million MWh to meet Great River Energy's members' demand.

Stanton Station has been a reliable performer for decades, and it

continues to improve its environmental performance in step with ever-stricter emission limits. Research on mercury control technology at the facility has led to a breakthrough solution that will lead to significant reductions to mercury emissions that will help keep electricity prices affordable.

Coal Creek Station took a major leap forward in 2009 when the patented DryFining™ system was placed into service. Since the technology was implemented, overall plant efficiency has risen by 4 percent. DryFining has also reduced emissions of sulfur dioxide by 40 percent, mercury by 20 percent, nitrogen oxides by 20 percent and carbon dioxide by 4 percent.

"Ultimately we need fewer tons of coal, because DryFining increases the amount of energy in every ton," said Great River Energy Senior Principal Engineer Charlie Bullinger.

In late 2014, DryFining celebrated five years of operation around the same time that the 30 millionth ton of lignite underwent the DryFining process.

"We have been good stewards of what we have," added Bullinger. "The goal has always been to produce cheaper, cleaner megawatt-hours of electricity – and we have done a good job."

## Industry News

### Water heater bill clears Senate, on to House

Electric cooperatives captured a key victory when the Senate cleared long-awaited legislation to sustain grid-enabled water heaters that are critical to energy-saving demand response programs.

"This legislation is a huge win for co-ops across the country and the consumer-members they serve," NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson said following the March 27 pre-dawn Senate voice vote in favor of S. 535.

Now NRECA and others must rally the House to act soon to prevent federal regulations from eliminating the use of large water heaters in demand response programs in the future.

The Department of Energy plans to install new standards that would ban the manufacture of these large electric-resistant water heaters and advance heat pump technology, which cannot serve for electric thermal storage. More than 250 co-ops nationwide rely on them to reduce demand by an estimated 500 megawatts and save consumer-members hundreds of millions of dollars.

Gary Connett, director of demand-side management and member services at Great River Energy in Maple Grove, Minn., urged House members March 19 to keep grid-enabled water heaters as part of the mix.

"These water heaters are one of the best tools cooperatives have for meeting federal goals related to renewable energy integration, demand-response, and electricity service reliability," Connett told the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

-Electric Co-op Today

### Study: Electric car batteries OK longer

Researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory are debunking the notion that electric vehicle (EV) batteries have to be replaced once 20 percent of their energy storage capacity is gone.

"Even after substantial battery degradation, the daily travel needs of most people are still going to be met," said Samveg Saxena, leader of the lab's vehicle powertrain research program.

As batteries degrade, the distance an electric car can travel decreases. That adds to the "range anxiety" which makes many people hesitant to buy an EV.

The Berkeley Lab study looked at real-world driving patterns, using nearly 160,000 itineraries from a Department of Transportation survey. Researchers assumed all of the itineraries were on an electric car with specifications similar to a Nissan Leaf. After running the data through the Vehicle-to-Grid Simulator developed by Saxena and his colleagues, they concluded that even with the 20 percent loss, EV batteries can still meet the daily travel needs of 85 percent of America's drivers. Even when the battery falls to half of its original energy storage capacity, the study showed that the daily travel needs of more than 80 percent of U.S. drivers can still be met. And when the battery gets down to 30 percent capacity, it's still sufficient for the daily needs of 55 percent of drivers.

-Electric Co-op Today

## Circuit Breakers Don't Protect People

Circuit Breakers do not care about you. They are designed to only protect equipment. A conventional 600-amp breaker with over 1200 amps of overload may take over 2 minutes to finally trip. And it may require a fault over 8000 amps before it will trip. For us, it only takes a 1/10 of an amp to kill our heart, and the breaker 'reset' will not change that. Safety begins and ends with you. Please always play it safe around electricity.

Source: Midwest Electrical Testing

## Worried about Water in Your Basement This Spring?

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## February Outage Summary

**M**cLeod Cooperative Power had a total of 20 outages, affecting 97 consumers. The largest outage affected 44 consumers on Wednesday, February 11 at 11:52 a.m. northeast of Hutchinson. Members were out of power for 1 hour and 8 minutes. The second largest outage affected 20 consumers north of Glencoe on Sunday, February 1 about 11:22 a.m. Members were out for one hour and 13 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.

## 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 April 28 to be included in the May issue. Thank you!

### Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

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

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

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check  
ad category**

- Giveaway  
 For Rent  
 For Sale  
 Wanted

### 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

### For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 16ft fishing boat, 65hp & trolling motor & trailer. \$1,295. 320-587-7746
- JD 4020 gas w/front mount snow blower. \$9,000. 612-499-2212
- JD GX345 lawn mower, 54 inch deck, 733 hrs. \$2,750. 320-579-0267
- 42 inch JD riding lawn mower w/hydrostatic snow blower. \$700. 320-327-2472
- Invacare all electric hospital bed & mattress. Used 2 months. \$375. 320-328-4041
- Misc Pink Depression dishes. 320-583-9164
- 16ft Lund fiberglass boat, w/trailer & 18hp Evinrude motor. \$995. 320-864-4376
- 2 - 5ft long electric baseboard heaters. 320-864-6511
- Large wire cage dog container. 320-864-6511
- Metal shelf brackets 12 & 14 inches. Best offer. 320-587-0481

**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.**

- Firewood log scabs. 320-864-4453
- Qty 3 storage locker 30 inch X 20 inch X 16 inch. \$10. 320-587-8065

### For Sale - Farm

- Charolais bulls for sale. 612-490-2254
- 24ft Allied bale elevator w/electric motor. \$360. 952-467-2103

### Wanted

- Portable basketball hoop. 952-657-2306
- Cottonwood & White Oak logs. 320-864-4453

### For Rent

- Branson vacation rental. One bedroom condo. \$400/wkly. 320-779-0015

**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.**

## Ruby Redekopp is 2015 Washington D.C. Youth Tour winner

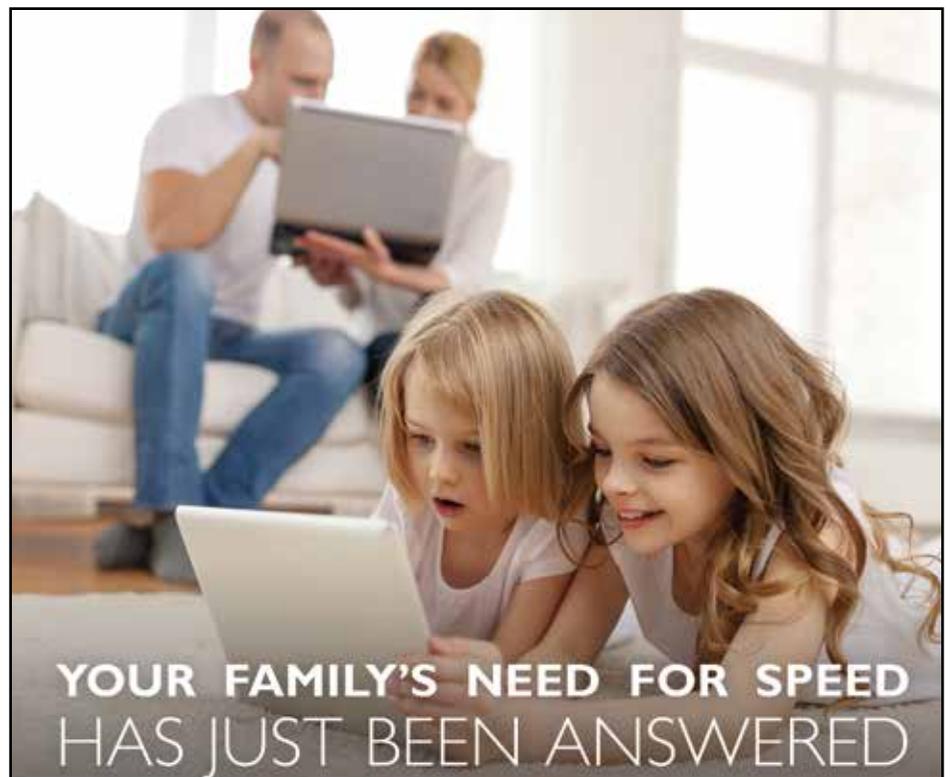


**R**uby Redekopp, a junior at Hutchinson High School, will be representing McLeod Cooperative Power in June on the 2015 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Ruby is the daughter of James & Sara Redekopp of Hutchinson. She competed with many other students who submitted entries in the youth tour competition.

## Allocation notices on April bill statement

**T**he amount of capital credits allocated to each member for 2014 is shown on the electric bill mailed in mid-April. It is based on margins allocated. MCPA allocations may be refunded to the member at some time in the future when capital credits for 2014 are retired.

The amount shown is not available to be deducted from the bill at this time. It is merely a notice of allocation. For many years the notice of allocation was mailed separately but due to high postage costs we are now economizing and listing it on your bill statement.



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with NO activation fee

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It's the Internet service that delivers 140% of its advertised speed\* so you can browse, shop, connect, stream and share online the way you want!



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Provisional price of \$20 off for 12 months applies to the 50-MB service package through the first 12 months of service. After that, it reverts back to the regular monthly price of \$20. If you choose a higher speed package, the price of that package will be discounted \$20/month through the first 12 months of service. Offer valid for service activation through 5/31/15. Service not available in all areas. Minimum 24-month commitment term. Actual speeds will vary. Use of Exede service is subject to data transmission limits measured on a monthly basis. The copyright notice and the Exede Internet logo, and www.exede.com, Exede is a service mark of Exede, Inc.

\*FCC 2013 Measuring Broadband America

## 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.



## Construction of Community Solar Project is underway

Melsha Construction of Arlington completed excavation at the future home of McLeod Co-op Power's community solar project. On April 6th they were laying fabric and rock to the site. Construction of the solar array is planned for later in April.

**T**he Community Solar Project, is breaking ground this month. Site excavation and preparation, as well as construction of the Co-op's two community solar arrays and Great River Energy's single array are all scheduled to be done in April, weather permitting. "It is exciting to see that our project could be energized by May, so the Co-op members that are participating in the project will get the benefit of kWh production during the sunniest months of the year," said Customer Service Manager Sue Pawelk.

TenKsolar, the solar panel manufacturer, estimates that in our climate, 60-70% of the array's annual energy production will come in the months of April through September. Only 30-40% of the production is between October and March. So, MCPA's earlier than anticipated construction is a real plus for member's participating in the project.

So far, about 65 of the 100 panels in the array have been subscribed to by MCPA members. We invite any Co-op members interested in trying solar generation to sign up now. Those members on-board when the project is energized will get the maximum kWh energy credits in 2015.

Cost to subscribe to the project is \$1,550 per panel. Subscriptions are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Just submit your completed solar agreement with your \$1,550 per panel check. Credit card payments are accepted also. Solar agreements are available for download on the Co-op's website [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) or by calling the office and requesting a copy.

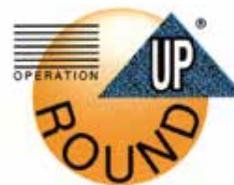
The Co-op's Community Solar Project will include two 20.5 kW dc arrays (41 kW total),

manufactured by TenKsolar, a Minnesota solar panel company. While the system is measured in direct current (dc), homes and businesses with central station power use alternating current (ac). The conversion brings the actual output of energy down to 36 kW ac. This means that under optimal conditions, the system will generate a maximum of 36 kW of electricity per hour. Sun is an intermittent resource. Passing cloud cover can cause energy production to go from 36 kW to 0 kW and back in less than a minute.

The system consists of 100 panels that are 410 watts dc each. The system installed cost is estimated to be under \$3.40 per watt dc. Members are paying \$3.78 per installed watt dc which includes the cost of insurance, maintenance and repairs, metering, and billing costs for 20 years. The average cost for a consumer to install solar in their backyard is \$4.00 to \$7.00 per installed watt dc after their federal tax credit, and that does not include the ongoing cost of insurance and maintenance for 20+ years.

"We are seeing that community solar is definitely a less costly and simpler way for members to do solar than installing an array in their backyard or on their roof," said Pawelk. The Co-op has taken great care to make sure 100% of the cost of this project is paid by the community solar participants, so there is no cost-shifting to other members.

Call McLeod Co-op Power if you have any questions on this project or would like to participate. Our employees can help answer all of your questions.



## Operation Round Up Trust Recipients Announced

Cheryl Beilke, an Operation RoundUp board member, announced the recipients of 2015 donations at the Annual Meeting on April

14. The Trust received 19 completed applications and was able to fund eight projects this year, totaling \$3,800.00. Since its inception in 2005, the Trust has been able to distribute \$35,025 to projects in the area.

*The eight projects receiving funding were:*

- \$475 Hamburg Fire Dept.** — purchase of anhydrous gas monitor
- \$475 Glencoe Sportsmen's Club** — fix well to water deer and elk, and repair fence
- \$475 The Salvation Army Heat Share** — assist families with heating bills
- \$475 Lester Prairie Fire Dept.** — fire rescue skid for UTV (equipped with pump, tank, and reel hose for grass fires)
- \$475 City of Arlington Parks Committee** — improvements to Sportsman's Park ball field
- \$475 Buffalo Lake Pals PreSchool** — provide books to families @ early development childhood screening
- \$475 Silver Lake Sportsman's Club** — offset cost to operate aeration system
- \$475 GSL Schools Early Childhood Family Ed & School Readiness PreSchool** — purchase new large muscle equipment for preschool age children (bikes, plasma cars)

During her presentation Beilke also announced two \$25 electric bill credit winners drawn at the Annual meeting from the names of those members who donate to Operation RoundUp rounding up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. This year's winners were: Charles Esser of Stewart and Larry Prochaska of Silver Lake.

## It is the perfect time to join the Hot Water Storage Program

*Lower your monthly bill and get a \$300 rebate*

**T**he Co-op has stocked up on large capacity water heaters, not knowing the outcome of legislation in Congress to continue to allow production of large capacity water heaters for control programs.

If you're currently on the off-peak water heating program, the ban won't affect you. You are grandfathered into owning a large-capacity water heater and will not be required to replace it.

**Are you considering a switch to the storage water heating program?** Now may be a good time to take action. The Co-op has water heaters in stock. There is a \$300 rebate currently available when installing a new high-efficiency, large water heater on the ETS (electric thermal storage) water heating program. If you have been wondering how you can reduce your monthly electric bill, the Water Storage Program (with or without the Cycled Air Conditioning Program) can save you hundreds of dollars a year. Over 1,270 members participate in the program. The Co-op has a satisfaction guarantee on the program.

Call the Co-op's energy experts today to help you select the proper size tank for your family. Participation in the ETS water heating program is one of the best ways to significantly lower your electric bill every month of the year.



# Cooperative opens online store for MCPA members only

Store features LED light bulbs and energy conservation products

McLeod Cooperative Power members now have their own online store for purchasing LED light bulbs and energy conservation products. The site is designed to make shopping for household LED light bulbs easier for our members. All types and styles of LED bulbs available are EnergyStar certified and are warranted for several years. Many are made in the USA. The most popular household LED bulbs are eligible for a \$5 per bulb rebate, which is applied before you submit your order — giving you instant savings! For example, if you ordered six TCP 10-Watt A-Lamps @ \$6.79 each, you get a \$30 rebate applied to your order, bringing your cost to \$1.79 per bulb plus shipping.

The site also gives members access to energy conservation products like faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, programmable thermostats, Kill-A-Watt energy usage monitors, motion and photo controls, weatherization

products, hard-to-find LED lights for special applications, and LED yard lights. These items are not instantly rebated, however, it gives MCPA members access to high-quality and high-efficiency products that are sometimes hard to find.

Members can get to the store via McLeod Co-op Power's website ([www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)) and clicking on the Lighting Store link on our home page.

Members who do not have internet access can still order light bulbs and items via telephone (1-877-738-6824). Make sure to identify yourself as a McLeod Co-op Power member so you get the \$5 rebate on the featured household bulbs. All products will be shipped right to your home by our fulfillment partner Service Concepts, a cooperative business in Indiana.



For McLeod Members Only

PLEASE NOTE: This Rebate Order Form is subject to change.  
Minimum total order quantity of 6 bulbs  
(Limit of 24 bulbs eligible for rebate/consumer)

\$5 Rebate per bulb applied after form submission.

LEDs				
Item #	Description	Price (each)	Quantity	
CR-A19-60W-27K	CREE 9.5 Watt A-lamp	\$9.49	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LED10A19DOD27K	TCP 10 WATT A-lamp	\$6.79	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LED18A21DOD27K	TCP 18 Watt A-Lamp	\$19.19	<input type="checkbox"/>	
P432195	Philips 19 Watt A-Lamp	\$19.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CR-BR30-65W-27K	CREE 9.5 Watt BR30 27K	\$14.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CR-BR30-65W-50K	CREE 9.5 Watt BR30 50K	\$14.99	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LED10BR30D27K	TCP 10 WATT BR30	\$9.29	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LED12BR30D27K	TCP 12 WATT BR30	\$12.39	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Assembled in the USA

## McLeod Co-op Power celebrates National Lineman Appreciation Day



McLeod Co-op Power linemen (l to r): Nick Tritz, Brad Hundt, Ryan Schuette, Jared Klein, Grant Miller, Kevin LaCourse, Craig Marti, Line Superintendent Dan Schade, and Terry Underdahl.

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. On April 13, 2015, McLeod Co-op Power will honor the men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

"Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve," said Carrie Buckley, MCPA General Manager. "They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition."

McLeod Co-op Power invites members to take a moment to thank

a lineman for the work they do by sending an e-mail to [mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com) or by offering a word of thanks when you see them. The Co-op is honoring its line workers with the banner shown in the photo, media announcements, and by serving them breakfast on April 13th.

The full text of the resolution, which the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted unanimously, follows:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the

electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.