

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

April 2017

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

McLeod Co-op Power Hosts 82nd Annual Meeting



About 390 members and guests attended the 82nd annual meeting in Hutchinson on April 11.

The members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association gathered for the 82nd annual meeting of the Cooperative on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the Hutchinson Event Center. About 390 members and guests attended the meeting and were served a roast beef dinner.

Three directors were elected for a three-year term each: Oria Brinkmeier of Lester Prairie, Joe Griebie of Brownton, and David Resch of Glencoe were elected to serve Districts, 1, 2, & 3, respectively.

Reports were given by Finance Manager Susan Noyes, General Manager Carrie L. Buckley, and Operation RoundUp Board Member Cheryl Beilke. David Saggau,

President and CEO of Great River Energy was the guest speaker. 2016 Washington D.C. Youth winner Elli Gifferson thanked the members for sending her to the youth gathering and shared the significant impact the trip had on her life.

Attendance prizes were also awarded. The grand prize was a \$300 electric bill credit. It was won by Roger Venske of Winsted.

Following the annual meeting, the board of directors elected their officers for the coming year. Keith Peterson was selected as board president, Joe Griebie as vice-president, Doug Kirtz as secretary-treasurer, and Gerald Roepke as assistant secretary-treasurer. Randy Hlavka will be the cooperative's representative to Great River Energy.



McLeod Cooperative Power members elected (l to r) Oria Brinkmeier of Lester Prairie, Joe Griebie of Brownton, and David Resch of Glencoe to three-year terms on the Co-op board of directors.

Thank you Roger Karstens for 27 years of service to MCPA



From 1990 through April of 2017, Roger Karstens served on the MCPA Board of Directors. This year he chose not to seek re-election. The Cooperative wishes to recognize Roger for his many years of diligent and dedicated service. He represented several townships near Hutchinson.

Roger served as the Co-op's board vice-president for seven years. He was also the first MCPA director to earn the title of "certified director" from the Minnesota Rural Electric Association after having completed the required series of director education courses.

More Annual Meeting photos on page 2

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Join the Co-op for an afternoon at Target Field

Minnesota Twins take on the Chicago White Sox, Thursday, June 22 at 12:10 p.m.



Bring yourself, bring your spouse, or bring the grandkids. The Co-op will host 50 members and guests, on a first come, first serve basis. Tickets are \$45.00 per person and include game ticket, motor coach transportation from Co-op's office in Glencoe, and snack on the bus.

To sign up, get more information on seating for the game, or purchase your tickets with a credit card, call the Co-op office.

McLeod Co-op Bus — Trip Twins vs. Chicago White Sox at Target Field! — 12:10 p.m., Thursday, June 22.

Bus departs from McLeod Co-op at 10:30 a.m.

Phone: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

of reservations: _____ @ \$45 = \$ _____

Make checks payable to McLeod Cooperative Power. Clip and send this form to: **McLeod Cooperative Power Association P O Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070 Attn: Bob Thomes before May 20**

More Annual Meeting photos



General Manager Carrie Buckley answered member's questions.



Musicians Jerry Kahle, Lowell Schubert, and Harvey Becker entertained the crowd with old time tunes before the meeting.



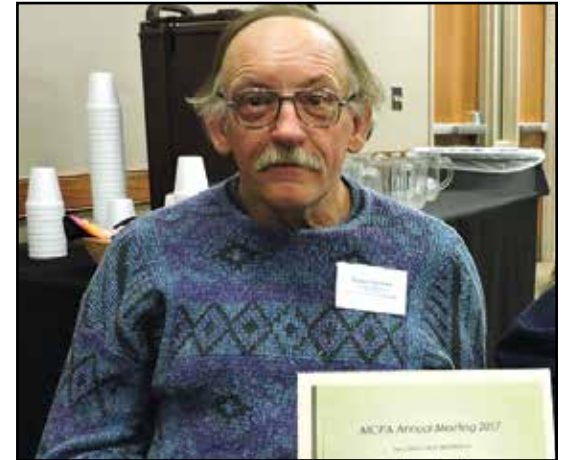
David Saggau, Great River Energy President and CEO, was guest speaker. He also presented the Co-op's Operation RoundUp Trust with a \$1,000 donation from Great River Energy.



Linemen enjoyed welcoming members to the event center. They also held doors for members, were in charge of beverage distribution in the food lines, carrying plates for some members, and helping with clean up.



Washington D.C. Youth Representative Elli Gifferson thanked members for sending her on the Washington D.C. trip and explained how it was a life-changing experience for her.



Roger Venske was grand prize winner of the \$300 electric bill credit.



If the power is on where you are reading this article, you likely have a lineman to thank.

In April we recognize all electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock in difficult conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Lineworkers are the first responders of our electric cooperative, and they're always ready to get the job done, day or

night," said Carrie Buckley, MCPA General Manager. "Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of everything we do."

McLeod Cooperative Power is proud to honor the nine lineworkers employed at MCPA.

Edward Slettom Cooperative Leadership Scholarship

The Minnesota Cooperative Education Foundation offers Edward Slettom Cooperative Leadership Scholarships for high school, college, graduate and law school students interested in pursuing careers in cooperatives. The scholarship was created in honor of the former Minnesota Association of Cooperative's (MAC) long-time Executive Director Ed Slettom. Slettom led the then-MAC from 1956-1986. One of his greatest passions was educating youth on the importance of cooperatives.

The Slettom scholarship awards

include \$500 for high school students, \$750 for students at two or four-year undergraduate institutions, and \$1,000 for students in graduate, business or law school. The awards are based on scholarship achievement, leadership, and an ability to contribute to cooperatives in the future. Applicants must be Minnesota residents but need not attend a Minnesota institution of higher education. Scholarship application information and a checklist of items to be submitted are available at <http://mcef.coop/scholarships/edward-slettom-scholarship/> and the deadline for this year's scholarship applications is May 1, 2017.

Board of Directors

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier

Hollywood Twp. in Carver Co., Winsted Twp. in McLeod Co., Victor, Woodland, & Franklin Twps. in Wright Co.

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President

Hassan Valley, Sumter & Rich Valley Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 3 - David Resch

Bergen, Helen, & Glencoe Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

Boon Lake, Brookfield, Osceola, Kingman, Preston Lake, Hector, Melville, Bird Island, Palmyra, & Norfolk Twps. in Renville Co. & East Lake Lillian Twp. in Kandiyohi Co.

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft

Lynn & Acoma Twps. in McLeod Co. & Ellsworth Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 6 - Gary Burdorf

Penn Twp. in McLeod Co, New Auburn, Green Isle, Dryden & Arlington Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

Collins & Round Grove Twps. in McLeod Co, Grafton, Martinsburg, Bandon, Wellington, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, & Alfsborg Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 9 - Gerald Roepke,

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

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 \$4.70 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association 1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk
General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley
cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com

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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Monday - Friday
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Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

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

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



MCPA line worker Jared Klein has a student at St. Paul's in Arlington try to remove a cotter pin from a metal pin while wearing rubber-insulated protective gloves. This is something line workers have to do all the time but it takes some practice to get proficient at doing mechanical work while wearing these gloves.

Safety programs taken into local schools

In early March, Cooperative employees did electrical safety education programs in two local schools. MCPA visited Our Savior's Lutheran School in Hutchinson and St. Paul's Lutheran School in Arlington. Students participate in interactive learning activities about electrical safety. A few lucky students also get to try on some safety gear worn by line workers. It is an opportunity to make students aware of safety hazards in the home and out in the world, and train them to respond correctly and keep themselves safe. MCPA makes the school safety programs available to all schools within its service area, although all do not choose to take advantage of this opportunity for learning to be safe.



Lineman Nathan Kelzer helps a student at Our Savior's in Hutchinson get outfitted with insulated gloves and other protective gear worn by line workers.

A device to give seniors at home greater independence



Do you worry about your parents getting older?

Do you worry about mom or dad living alone?

The First Alert emergency pendant from McLeod Co-op Power may be just the thing they need to help you worry less while they live on their own. One press of the button will call the 24-hour medical dispatch center, which will send a family member, neighbor or police over to help.



The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and make a perfect gift. Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-MCPA for more information.

Allocation notices on April bill statement

The amount of capital credits allocated to each member for 2016 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 2016 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.

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS		
Through Dec	2016	2015
Operating Revenue	\$21,187,579	\$20,218,632
Cost of Purchased Power	\$13,345,742	\$13,119,659
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 7,476,134	\$ 6,846,963
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$20,821,876	\$19,966,622
Operating Margins	\$ 365,703	\$ 252,010
Non Operating Margins	\$ 1,039,494	\$ 570,092
Total Margins	\$ 1,405,197	\$ 822,102
kWh's Sold	179,619,374	184,679,900
Member Services Billed	6,646	6,616



Great River Energy's generation director John Weeda adds his name to the Stanton Station employees who signed the generator after the plant went off line February 25th, marking the end of an era for the lignite pioneer.



Great River Energy's Stanton Station, after celebrating its 50th anniversary a few months ago, went out of service on Saturday, February 25, marking the end of an era for a plant that has been part of the Stanton, ND community for generations.

200 megawatts, over and out

LAUREN DONOVAN
Bismarck Tribune
February 27, 2017

STANTON — The Great River Energy Stanton Station threw a pair of 13s for the last hour and final minute it pulsed coal-fired energy down the wire. That moment was 13:13 in military time, or 1:13 p.m. Saturday in civilian time when the lead operator walked over to the control panel and disconnected the power plant from the power grid for the last time in history.

It was a solemn moment in the plant's 50-year history, one everyone knew had been coming since July 2016 when the company said it planned to shut it down rather than continue expensive upgrades. Operations called the transmission grid center with a final message — 200 megawatts, over-and-out.

Steve Richter, who leads fuels and materials services for the company's North Dakota operations, said he called a moment of silence in the control room where workers had crowded in to watch. He said it wasn't to say farewell to the facility, but it was done to honor all the men and women who had pioneered large-scale lignite energy production and those who worked there over all the years since.

"I thanked them all for the dedication," he said. And then to ease out of that emotionally charged moment, someone in the room quipped, "And may she rust in peace." There was a chuckle around the room and as Richter said, "You've got to have some humor."

Wade Aanderud, leader of plant operations, said the last moment of operations was always scheduled to occur sometime before March 1 and, with that in mind, he ordered in the very last 133-car train of Wyoming Powder River coal for delivery on Feb. 12.

On Saturday, operators were keeping a close eye on the outside coal "grizzlies," where stockpiled coal is pushed up to drop into the crushing unit below. The grizzlies were getting really empty, setting off a race against the clock: juggling remaining coal against the time required to drain 1,000 gallons of hot oil lubricants out of the No. 1 boiler equipment before it cooled too much to flow.

David Kelsch, a control room operator, said knowing the moment was coming was different than having it arrive. Those eerily empty grizzlies outside, all but clear of coal for the first time since the plant went into operation, "That's when it felt real," he said.

Though some coal remained, Aanderud made the call to quit feeding the boiler and then watched it reach master fuel trip mode.

"It was a goal in the next four hours to get all the oil drained out before the end of the shift. Everybody was on edge a little bit," he said of the employees who achieved the goal. Now that the plant is officially out of operation, the remaining 55 of 68 employees and specialty contractors will clean and strip the plant down to mortar and steel for its final May 1 decommissioning. Of the remaining employees, some are retiring, another 28 are moving to other GRE facilities and only a few will be hitting the employment market.

John Weeda, GRE's director of generation and decommissioning coordinator, said the station will be demolished with the idea that it should not become an eyesore to the community, rather than the place of pride and purpose it was for so long. Weeda said demolition will start in 2018 and continue over several years until the site is in brownfield condition.

"We don't want it to be a nuisance," Weeda said.

On Monday, the old plant was quiet, with no background hum of spinning rotors and

generators that were always the sound of machines at work. Aanderud said it's reminiscent of maintenance outages, but those were characterized by people at work taking equipment apart for cleaning and putting it back together.

"Now, nothing is going back together. It's just getting taken further apart," he said. "It's quiet."



Be Safe

Always call before you dig

CALL 811
BEFORE
YOU DIG.
IT'S THE
LAW.

UNDERGROUND POWER LINES can be just as dangerous as overhead power lines. Avoid serious injury and property damage by calling 811 before you dig to have underground facilities marked.

- Call Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two business days prior to a dig.
- Dial 811 or 1-800-252-1166 during normal business hours; this service is free for homeowners.
- Minnesota state law requires you to call.
- If you damage a line, you may be financially responsible for repairs.

You may also submit your dig information at gopherstateonecall.org/submit.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

Agriote Electric Cooperative • Anonhead Cooperative, Inc. • BENCO Electric Cooperative • Brown County Rural Electrical Association • Carleton Energy • Cooperative Light & Power • Crow Wing Power • Dakota Electric Association • East Central Energy • Federal Rural Electric Association • Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association • Irons-Monroe Cooperative Electrical Association • Kandiyohi Power Cooperative • Lake Country Power • Lake Region Electric Cooperative • Midland Cooperative Power Association • Mosler Cooperative • Mills Lake Energy Cooperative • Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative • Nibbles Cooperative Electric • North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Redwood Electric Cooperative • Rosestone Electric Association • South Central Electric Association • Stearns Electric Association • Steele-Wascona Cooperative Electric • Todd-Windome Electric Cooperative • Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

greatriverenergy.com



Heat pumps: The Smart Choice

ASHPs (air source heat pumps) 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 – some systems can provide heating in temperatures as low as 0 degrees Fahrenheit – and transfers it into your home. The result is that homeowners are able to run their furnaces less and get extremely efficient heating from their ASHP.

Both of these options can be controlled from a thermostat while the home heating function is also able to work in tandem with conventional gas 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.

Benefits to members

Members can realize substantial savings on home cooling expenses by installing an ASHP instead of other conventional air conditioning units. And 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 up to 300 percent.

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

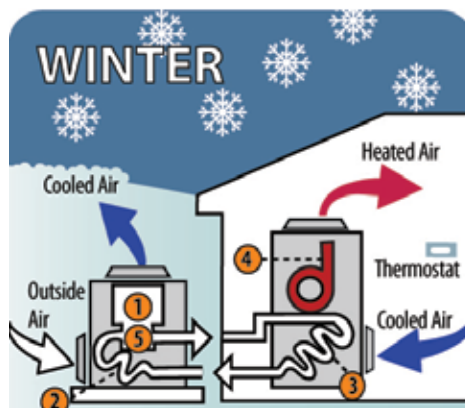
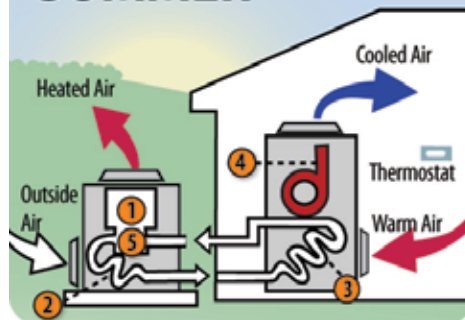
The warmth provided by ASHP technology can be superior in quality compared to conventional furnaces. The heat distributed by ASHP is distributed more evenly and holds its moisture better, resulting in more natural, comfortable warmth.

Part of your electric cooperative's mission is to help you use energy wisely by offering a variety of programs, resources and products to make this possible. For more information on available rebates on energy efficient equipment and programs such as energy management programs that utilize an air source heat pump, contact energy management personnel at the Cooperative.

How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.

SUMMER



- 1 Compressor**
Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.
- 2 Condenser**
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 3 Evaporator**
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 4 Air Handler**
Fan blows air into a home's ducts.
- 5 Reversing Valve**
Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

Industry News

Awards recognize real-life research

When researchers discover cleaner, safer and more efficient ways to provide energy, the next step is to put those new ideas into practice. During the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) annual Technology Transfer Awards, Great River Energy was recognized for applying research in real-world settings.

Zach Kuhn, engineer I, and Derrick Schlangen, leader, relay and control design, received the 2016 EPRI Power Delivery & Utilization Technology Transfer award for their application of the system-wide protection assessment tool. This application will allow Great River Energy to conduct system-wide relay coordination studies and arc flash hazard studies, streamlining a labor-intensive process.

Strategic Energy and Efficiency Program Representative Jeff Haase was recognized for developing internal electrification teams and programs that work with Great River Energy's membership to advance targeted electrification technologies.

Power Generation and Engineering Services Manager David Farnsworth was recognized for developing EPRI's REGEN Scenarios Analysis Project that helps utilities better understand how the electric sector may evolve in the future.

"The 2016 Technology Transfer Award winners have taken EPRI R&D to new levels in order to shape a sustainable energy system," said Arshad Mansoor, senior vice president of R&D at EPRI. "Working in a collaborative environment, their advancements benefit their utility and the entire industry because we all have a stake in power system transformation."

EPRI's Technology Transfer Awards recognize power system leaders and innovators who have helped their companies deliver safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity via the application of research and development in the utility industry.

Electricity emerging as preferred energy source

Technological progress is making appliances and other electric devices ever more efficient. Power plant retirements and renewable development will continue to reduce the environmental effect of the electric system.

These two converging trends are making one thing very clear: electricity is a smart choice.

"As the electric system continues to become cleaner and more efficient, there is a growing support for using electricity in new ways," said Great River Energy Member Services and Marketing Director Gary Connett.

"Encouraging the smart use of electricity, which we and others have termed environmentally beneficial electrification, will improve the way cooperatives serve members."

Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives offer a catalog of programs that incentivize energy efficiency retrofits ranging from LED lighting to ground-source heat pumps.

Cooperatives are also leading the charge on community energy storage, which employs common household appliances to provide critical services the electric grid needs.

~Source for both articles: Great River News



February Outage Summary

February had 38 outages. Eleven were scheduled outages for transformer or other equipment changeouts. Nine were due to power supply or transmission outages.

The largest outage was on Sunday, February 19 about 3:00 AM a truck hit and damaged a transmission pole and the Co-op's under-built distribution lines beneath the transmission lines. This accident near Biscay caused a transmission outage affecting five MCPA substations. Winthrop Sub, Bell Sub (south of Hutchinson) and Sumter Sub were out for 11 minutes. Members served by High Island Sub (south of Glencoe) and Helen Sub (north of

Glencoe) were out of power for 2 hours and 16 minutes. About two dozen MCPA members served off of the damaged distribution line were off for four hours. Total consumers affected by these outages was 2,960.

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 here 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

- Firewood, campfire wood. 320-327-3168
- 30 gallon water heater. Works. \$25. 320-587-6205
- Green treated posts 4X6 & 5X7 fence connectors some steel posts. 320-234-7934
- New fluorescent bulbs, various sizes. \$2/each. 320-510-0404
- Garden shed 4ft X 4ft made from old barn boards. \$800. 320-510-1428
- AGRIFAB 26 bushel N-vac cart 9hp Briggs Stratton. Like new. 952-657-2138
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 2009 Crown Victoria police Interceptor. 103,000 miles. 952-353-2351
- 16ft Lund boat and trailer. 320-864-4376
- Pronto electric wheelchair. Like new. \$2,000. 320-234-7181
- 1977 AMC Matador. No motor or transmission. \$600/obo. 320-522-2814

For Sale Farm

- Herford beef quarters. No drugs or hormones. 320-587-8711

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.

- McCormick antique hay tedder. 320-587-8836
- JD 800 swater for parts. 320-522-2167
- Ram 340 manure spreader. 320-522-2167
- Feterl auger 10 X 60. 320-333-2177
- Westfield auger 8 X 61. 320-333-2177
- Westfield auger 10 X 51. 320-333-2177
- 10ft JD double disk grain drill. 320-864-4496
- JD 640 hayrake, excellent condition. \$1,500. 320-583-3679
- JD 21 conditioner, excellent condition. \$350. 320-583-3679
- White 549 5X18 auto reset mounted plow. Good shape. 320-587-6863
- Farmhand 810 feedmaster w/4 screens. 507-327-1869
- Model H806-A cornsheller attachment. Shedded. 507-327-1869

For Rent

- Branson vacation rental. One or two bedroom condo, weekly. 320-779-0015

Cooperative vehicle for sale



McLeod Co-op Power is selling a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado LS 3/4 ton pickup that has been in the Co-op's fleet since it was purchased new. The Chevrolet 2500 HD has 4 WD, extended cab with 6.5 foot box. It has approximately 148,000 miles on the odometer.

The pickup is being sold "as-is" with no warranty. It will be sold to the highest bidder, however there is a \$5,000.00 reserve price (minimum bid) that must be met.

Sealed bids including your name, address, telephone number, and bid price must be mailed to McLeod Co-op Power, Attention Bob Thomes, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe MN 55336 or dropped in the Co-op's 24-hour payment drop box at 1231

Ford Ave. N., Glencoe MN. Bids must be received by 7:00 AM on Monday, May 1, 2017. Winning bidder is responsible for any license, transfer fees, and taxes.

The vehicle is available for viewing at the Co-op office during regular business hours April 17-28, 2017. Serious bidders may contact Bob Thomes at 320-864-7329 with questions.

2005 Chevrolet Silverado LS 2500 HD pickup extended cab with heavy duty trailering equipment. Truck has approximately 148,000 miles. It has 4WD, vortex 6000 V-8 engine, ABS, PS, AC, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM-FM with CD player, remote keyless entry, power locks and windows, and engine block heater.

Two long-time MCPA employees retire

Dave Keil and Doug Kashmark each retired from the Co-op in the past few weeks. Dave with over 26 years of service and Doug with over 21 years of service to MCPA. Both are looking forward to spending more time with family and working on personal hobbies.



Doug Kashmark (left) and Dave Keil (right) each retired from MCPA recently.

Many members had contact with Dave when he was in the front office as Billing & Collections Supervisor and more recently taking engineering calls. Dave Keil started with McLeod Co-op Power in 1990 in the Billing Department. In 2004, he transferred to the Engineering Department as an Operations Specialist. Dave's position, which includes dispatching, electronic, mapping, and engineering office support, has been filled by Debbie Ebert. Debbie previously worked in the front office with DIRECTV,

exede internet, emergency medical pendants, safety, and many other Co-op programs.

Doug worked as the Warehouse and Materials Technician his entire time at MCPA. His job of maintaining the Co-op's entire parts inventory, buildings and grounds, shipping and receiving, and a host of other duties, is being filled by Bob Senst. Bob is also a long-time Co-op employee who has transferred from the metering area to being Warehouse and Materials Technician.

Great River Energy: Innovation, collaboration and leadership to competitively power the future

Great River Energy was created because its owners — the 28 cooperatives it serves — needed reliable, affordable wholesale power in harmony with a sustainable environment.

While the cooperative's objective has not changed, the way it serves members is evolving. Great River Energy adopted a new company vision in 2016 to reflect this change: Innovate, collaborate and lead to competitively power the future.

Serving members with sound finances

Great River Energy recorded a very strong margin in 2016. Great River Energy's wholesale rates are competitive and stable, as the cooperative's 10-year rate forecast projects modest increases, below the expected rate of inflation.

An important component of Great River Energy's financial strength is a company-wide emphasis on cost reductions, known as business improvement. Since its inception 2002, the business improvement program has saved the company — and its membership — \$250 million.

Market forces driving change

Ten years ago, the Midwest energy market included 1,000 megawatts of wind generation. Today, there are 15,000 megawatts. Wind energy has become the new "baseload" source of electricity, supplanting coal as the resource to which all others must adapt.

The rise of wind has presented opportunities for Great River Energy. The cooperative announced plans for an additional 300 megawatts of favorably priced wind energy, which will bring its total renewable energy capacity to more than 1,000 megawatts by 2021, including 200 megawatts of hydropower.

Great River Energy engineers and operators modified the cooperative's largest power plant, Coal Creek Station, to adjust its output in response to market signals — a rare and increasingly valuable trait for a coal-based plant. Operational changes and minor modifications will enable the 1,146-megawatt Coal Creek Station power plant to incrementally ramp down to as little as 300 megawatts when wind energy production is high.

Market forces have also prompted difficult decisions. Great River Energy is retiring its Stanton Station power plant because it is no longer economical to operate in today's energy market.

Expertise presents opportunities

Waste-to-energy power plants are a critical component of Minnesota's waste management plans, and Great River Energy has emerged as a leader in the field. In April, Great River Energy's Elk River Resource Processing Plant processed its 10 millionth ton of garbage, nearly all of which has been used to generate renewable energy.

Such successful operation has presented new opportunities. A Great River Energy subsidiary successfully operated the Newport Resource Recovery Facility in 2016, and the cooperative will assume operations of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center in Minneapolis in 2019.

Electrifying the economy

As the electric system has become more efficient, there is growing support to use electricity in new ways. Encouraging the smart use of electricity, known as "environmentally beneficial electrification," will improve the way cooperatives serve members.

Great River Energy continues to offer its RevoltSM program, which allows electric vehicle drivers to charge their cars entirely with wind energy at no added cost. The cooperative also works with members to attract economic development in cooperative communities through financial support and unique energy solutions.

Investing in the region's grid

With the late-September completion of a 345-kilovolt transmission line between Hampton, MN., and La Crosse, WI., the largest Midwest transmission buildout in 30 years was complete. Great River Energy was one of 11 utilities that invested 12 years and \$1.85 billion to fortify the Midwest electric grid and enable renewable development with the CapX2020 grid expansion.

The largest transmission refurbishment project in Great River Energy's history is underway. Converter stations at both ends of a 436-mile high-voltage, direct-current transmission line, will ensure the continued reliable delivery of electricity from Great River Energy's largest power plant to its members in Minnesota.

Developing the grid of the future

More consumers are generating their own electricity. There is growing demand for detailed energy data. Renewed interest in energy is leading cooperatives to provide data and tools to empower their membership. Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives are upgrading infrastructure to build a foundation for smarter energy and deliver much-desired solutions and services to members.

Advanced electric meters allow cooperatives to better manage the electric grid of the future and integrate renewables and distributed generation. Timely and accurate energy data is helping cooperatives better serve their members through customized energy programs, reliability improvements and rapid resolution of billing questions.



AC tune-ups eligible for credit once every two years

Last chance for 2017 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. 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.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Eligible for credit a maximum of once every 24 months

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 _____

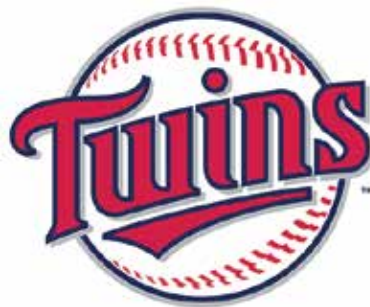
Washington D.C. Youth Tour winner selected

Winner of the 2017 Washington D.C. Youth Tour trip is McKaia Ryberg of Buffalo Lake.



Her parents are members Brian and Sandy Ryberg of rural Buffalo Lake. She is a senior at BOLD High School. She will represent McLeod Cooperative at the youth conference in June.

Co-op to help sponsor youth baseball clinic



The Minnesota Twins and Great River Energy, are sponsoring a 2017 Play Ball! Youth Clinic on Saturday, May 27 in Arlington. The event will be hosted by McLeod Co-op Power and the Arlington Baseball Association. The event is free to participants. There will be a 10 AM session for 6-9 year olds and an 11:30 AM session for 10-13 year olds at the Arlington Baseball Park on May 27. Tell your children or grandchildren to watch local newspapers and the MCPA News in May for more details.

LED yard light replacements starting



The Co-op has begun a project of changing out older style mercury vapor and high pressure sodium rental yard lights with newer, more efficient LED fixtures. This project will take several years to complete. Crews are changing out lights in one township at a time, when they are not busy with construction or maintenance work.

Replacing an existing unmetered light with an unmetered LED light is pretty simple. The new light replaces the old light. It is mounted in the same place. Additional wiring is not required. The monthly rental fee to the member stays the same or decreases. The line crew leaves each member getting a new light a door hanger notifying them the light change has been completed. **The Co-op will not be notifying members with unmetered lights in advance.** Our employees always enjoy talking with members, however, we have one person available to make the notification calls and we are finding the calls to be more time-consuming than originally anticipated.

Through this project, the Co-op is also converting metered yard lights to unmetered. These conversions can be more complicated, as they sometimes require moving the light to a different pole or performing additional wiring. The Co-op is attempting to call members in advance for the metered to unmetered conversions. When a member receives notification that the crew will be doing light replacements in their area, we hope members will call with questions or concerns.



Operation Round Up donates \$17,000 to community organizations

The Trust received 20 completed applications. The fourteen projects receiving funding were:

- \$ 500** **Lester Prairie Schools** for PBIS Initiative behavioral intervention program used to recognize/support positive student behaviors.
- \$1,000** **Ecumen RSVP** to purchase ankle weights for use with Bone Builders Program which improves balance, strength and flexibility for seniors.
- \$1,000** **Glencoe Historic Preservation Society** to preserve the stone and bell that were in the original Henry Hill building.
- \$1,000** **Hutchinson High School Dollars for Scholars** to help fund scholarships for high school graduates to meet post-secondary education goals.
- \$1,000** **Heart of Hutch Power of Produce Project** that promotes healthy eating and gets students to purchase fruits and vegetables at the Hutchinson Farmer's Market.
- \$2,000** **Brownton Fire Department** to help purchase new boots for fire fighters.
- \$1,000** **Arlington Chamber of Commerce (Arli-Dazzle)** to fund non-activity related items for Arli-Dazzle traffic, safety and volunteer needs.
- \$1,500** **Common Cup Ministry** — Thrift Shop of Common Cup Ministry to help fund startup costs for Glencoe Thrift Store.
- \$1,000** **Heart of MN Animal Shelter** — Hutch MN Community Dog Park Project - to donate towards cost of fence around dog park.
- \$1,500** **Wee Friends Creative Preschool** for creative play items, arts and crafts items, and new children's tables and chair purchases.
- \$1,000** **Heart of Hutch** — One Book, One Community — to support community book read program, pay for speakers fees, rental costs and promotional materials.
- \$2,000** **Sibley County Food Share Inc.** to help fund distribution of perishable food items to people in need of assistance including meat and food items in short supply.
- \$1,000** **First Ev. Lutheran Church in Glencoe** (Light House, New Youth Room) for renovations for new off-site youth room. Place for community youth to engage in kids youth programs.
- \$1,500** **Boy Scout Troop 275** — Buffalo Lake to purchase camping gear, tents, summer camp fees for Boy Scout troop.

Signing up is easy. Just call the office and we will send you a sign up form or download the form from the Co-op web site and send to us. After that your bill will always be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar amount. The difference between your actual bill and nearest whole dollar amount will go to Operation Round Up each month. It is a tax-deductible donation and the receipt for your annual donation is printed right on your electric bill. Any account will donate a maximum of \$11.88 a year, but it will usually be closer to the average \$6.00 per account.

Since the program's inception in 2005, MCPA's Operation Round Up Program has donated over \$67,000 to community projects in our service area. With the participation of more members, we could increase the number of projects that receive funding. Organizations receiving funding touch the lives of members and their families in many ways.

Two winners of a \$25 electric bill credit for being an Operation Round Up participant the past year are:

David M. Karl of Buffalo Lake and David Martin of Glencoe.