

# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

June 2017

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Our office will be closed on  
Tuesday, July 4



School safety programs....8

Official publication of



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## Twins Clinic a big hit with area youth



**O**n Saturday, May 27, about 80 area youth participated in the Minnesota Twins Youth Baseball Clinic in Arlington MN. Local students were coached by members of the Minnesota Twins organization on hitting, throwing and catching, and baseball fundamentals. There were two 90-minute sessions conducted for each age bracket: 6-9 years of age and 10-13 years of age.

The event was hosted locally by McLeod Co-op Power of Glencoe and the Arlington Baseball Association. Water for the participants was provided by Locher Bros. Distributing of Green Isle. These youth baseball clinics are sponsored by the Minnesota Twins Foundation and Great River Energy in communities across the state. Participants each received a baseball from McLeod Co-op Power and a backpack from Great River Energy.



## Only a few seats remain on the MN Twins game bus

**J**oin the Co-op for an afternoon at Target Field to watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Chicago White Sox, Thursday, June 22 at 12:10 PM. Enjoy a great afternoon of baseball and leave the driving to us!

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 a snack on the bus. Concessions at the game will be on your own.

Call the Co-op office at 1-800-494-6272 to purchase your tickets.

## Off-peak programs can lower your bill

**P**rograms like the Hot Water Storage Program and Cycled Cooling Program can significantly reduce your family's monthly electric bill. Appliance use on the off-peak rate is only 5.88 cents per kWh. This is a savings of 55% from the regular summer energy rate. Imagine cutting your home's cooling cost more than in half! When you cut your water heating cost in half by joining the Water Storage Program, you can add your air conditioning to the Cycled Cooling Program to receive the low rate on that also.

The average family uses about 400 kWh per month for water heating. On the Storage Water Heating Program, the average family lowers their bill by over \$28 a month during the summer and \$24 a month the rest of the year. Then reduce the cost to operate your central

air conditioner or heat pump in half, and you have some significant summer savings. An average family saves \$80 per year on the cycled air program.

The Co-op sweetens the deal by offering a \$400 rebate when you join the Hot Water Storage Program. There are also rebates of \$480-\$630 available for the purchase and installation of high-efficiency air source heat pumps. So this is the perfect time to upgrade to more efficient appliances and save on your monthly energy charges too.

On the Water Storage Program, an 80-gallon or larger water heater provides all the hot water your family needs with an overnight charge. By heating during non-peak hours you get a big break on the kilowatt hour cost. Call the Co-op for details. Our energy experts will help

you calculate your personal savings based on number of persons in the family and help size your water heater capacity needs.

The Co-op's Cycled Cooling Program reduces your cooling cost by more than half. On the really hot summer days, the Co-op will cycle your cooling unit during peak hours, in exchange for giving you the reduced rate. If you have your home cool by noon the cycling is designed to maintain that cool temperature without a noticeable increase through the peak hours. The Co-op guarantees member satisfaction on this program also.

Don't wait until you get your first summer electric bill. Sign up to take advantage of off-peak savings today. Call 1-800-494-6272.

## Direct Payment Plan is safest and easiest way to pay your bill

This is an especially good time for members to sign up for the Direct Payment (Autopay) Plan. You can get away from writing a check, putting on a stamp and mailing your payment to the Cooperative. It is so simple to sign up. Once on the program, MCPA will automatically take care of the bank draft from your account. You save time and money each month and so does the Cooperative.

### Here is how it works:

- You will receive your normal monthly bill around the 15th of each month, giving you 13 days to review the charges.
- Your bank account will not be charged until the 28th of the month (or the next business day if it falls on a weekend).

To get on the Direct Payment Plan, just fill out the Authorization for Direct Payment form and return it to the Cooperative along with a voided check. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your enrollment on the program.

Call 1-800-494-6272 today if you need assistance signing up.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize McLeod Cooperative Power Association and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three business days before my account is charged.

Name of Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Checking \_\_\_\_\_ Savings \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH A BLANK, VOIDED CHECK FROM YOUR DESIGNATED ACCOUNT FOR VERIFICATION.

Electric Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Location # \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [energywisemn.com](http://energywisemn.com) and click on explore/promotions/view details to learn more about LED lighting and enter for a chance to win a **\$500 energy bill credit.**

ENERGY WISE MN

## Know of a new or expanding business that plans to locate in this area?

McLeod Cooperative Power has an Economic Development Loan Fund established to assist with gap financing for business projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver Counties. One of the main criteria for eligibility is job creation. If you are a business owner looking to locate your business in this area or start a new business and you are interested in applying for some competitive rate loan funds, contact Sue Pawelk at McLeod Co-op Power 1-800-494-6272 for details.

McLeod Cooperative Power is committed to revitalizing the rural communities in our service area. It is our goal to utilize this revolving loan fund for job growth and economic health of our area. Applicants or projects do not need to be electric customers of McLeod Cooperative Power to apply for funding. Review and approval of loan applications rests with McLeod Cooperative Power.

## Three linemen attain journeyman status

McLeod Co-op Power has three line workers that recently completed their apprenticeships and moved to journeyman line worker status. Nathan Kelzer completed his apprenticeship in August of 2016. Kevin LaCourse and Jared Klein each completed their apprenticeships in April and became full-fledged journeyman linemen.

Today, a lineman must complete over 8,000 hours of training to become a journeyman line worker. The apprenticeship begins after they have attended a certified Line Worker Program for usually a minimum of one year. Some do two years to attain an associate's degree. The training for apprentices includes 640 hours of classroom instruction, documented on-the-job training and work experience in each of the skill areas. Apprentices must pass tests on the material they have learned throughout the course. All three MCPA apprentices passed their final testing and advanced to journeyman status in 2016 or 2017.



Apprentice line workers that are now journeyman are (l to r) Jared Klein, Nathan Kelzer, and Kevin LaCourse.

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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.

#### Office Hours:

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

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1-800-494-6272

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Fax: 320-864-4850

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

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

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

# The Co-op has money for these former members

We are looking for current mailing addresses of the following former Co-op members who had capital credit checks returned to us by the U.S. Postal Service in 2016-17. These were for 1997 revenue and a portion of 2015 revenue. Please notify our office if you have a current mailing address for anyone listed or please have the former consumer below contact us directly. Thank you for your help.

|  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABRAMS, SHAWN<br>GLENCOE, MN                             | CANTU, JUAN C<br>BROWNSVILLE, TX                     | FLORES, BRAD<br>EAU CLAIRE, WI                    | HILER, JO ANNE<br>STEWART, MN              | LADE, CHRIS & CAROL<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                       | O'BRIEN, MARGARET<br>MINNEAPOLIS, MN                      | RADUENZ, JEFFREY S<br>DASSEL, MN                        | SHIREK, TODD<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                                    | WELKER, BRIAN K<br>PHILLIPS, WI             |
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| BRUCKSCHEN, JODY<br>GLENCOE, MN                          | ELWOOD, DUANE M<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                    | HARSDORF, THOMAS<br>GLENCOE, MN                   | KORSMO, BENJAMIN &<br>DANA<br>FRANKLIN, MN | MORTENSON, ANN<br>C/O MARK MORTENSON<br>MINNEAPOLIS, MN     | POLESKY, WALDEN &<br>EMMANUEL<br>MORGAN, MN               | SCHRUPP, CURTIS M<br>NORWOOD, MN                        | WASSMUND, GERALD<br>PLACERVILLE, CA                               |   |
| BRYANT, OSCAR R<br>STEWART, MN                           | FARNSWORTH, DOUGLAS P<br>BROOK PARK, MN              | HARTMAN, MICHAEL<br>LAFAYETTE, MN                 | KRABILL, DONALD<br>WABASHA, MN             | MOTOROLA CRC<br>SCHAUMBURG, IL                              | POMERLEAU, MICHAEL &<br>NORMA<br>DELANO, MN               | SCHUETZ, JAMES<br>C/O BRIDGETT FREDIN<br>NEW AUBURN, MN | WATSON, DARIN<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                                   |   |
| BUERSKIN, MICHAEL<br>C/O DANIEL BUERSKIN<br>LAKELAND, MN | FELTMANN, RYAN<br>GREEN ISLE, MN                     | HATCHER, GARY<br>COKATO, MN                       | KRAFT, DAVID<br>ANNANDALE, MN              | MURRAY, RICHARD & PEGG<br>WATERTOWN, MN                     | POPELKA, JOHN<br>GLENCOE, MN                              | SCHULTE, CHAD<br>HECTOR, MN                             | WELDON, KENNETH M<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                               |   |
| BURKE, DEB L<br>FORT DODGE IA                            | FERNDALE TREE FARM INC<br>WAYZATA, MN                | HAWES, DANIEL J<br>DARWIN, MN                     | KRUEGER, ARNOLD W<br>WINTHROP, MN          | NELSON, BONNIE K<br>LOWELL, OR                              | POPPLER, JEFF & KELLY<br>HENDERSON, MN                    | SCHWARZROCK, AMOS<br>GIBBON, MN                         |   |   |
| BUSHMAN, RICHARD &<br>SHARON<br>CASS LAKE, MN            | FINNEY, MICHAEL<br>CHASKA, MN                        | HAWTHORNE, KIRK &<br>DANA<br>PINOPOLIS, SC        | KRUEGER, JOSEPH<br>GLENCOE, MN             | NELSON, DAVID D<br>FT MYERS, FL                             | PRIOR, NEAL<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                             | SEEMANN, PAUL H<br>CARVER, MN                           |   |   |
| BUSKE, JAMES & GAYLE<br>WESTFIELD, WI                    | FISCHER, CHRIS L<br>WATERTOWN, MN                    | HESKETT, LE ANN K<br>CHASKA, MN                   | KRUSE, JOHN C<br>DEER RIVER, MN            | NELSON, DOUGLAS B<br>MINNEAPOLIS MN                         | PUDEWELL, GLORIA K<br>C/O MICHAEL KUEHN<br>WINTHROP, MN   | SETTERGREN, KENNETH<br>LITCHFIELD, MN                   |   |   |
| CANNADAY, JOHN<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                         | FISCHER, R THOMAS<br>ZUMBRO FALLS, MN                | HEIL, EUGENE J<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                  | KUGLER, DAVID &<br>SUZANNE<br>WACONIA, MN  | NELSON, FRANK<br>OSAKIS, MN                                 | RAATZ, ROBERT<br>PERHAM, MN                               | SHADDRICK, KELLEY<br>RICE, MN                           |   |   |
|  | FISCHER, SCOTT W<br>ST PAUL, MN                      | HENDERSON, JILL<br>HOWARD LAKE, MN                | KUNZE, PETER<br>WACONIA, MN                |   |   | SHAW, WAUNITA<br>EXCELSIOR, MN                          |   |   |
|  | FITZGERALD, DONALD<br>HUTCHINSON, MN                 |   |  |   |   | SHEEHAN, BRIAN<br>OLIVIA, MN                            |   |   |



Mike calls the cattle and they obediently move from one pasture to another. The cattle are moved to fresh grass daily to maximize plant and animal health.



This newborn calf was named Fred. Mike and Bridget name and tag all their cattle within 24-48 hours of birth to make it easier to identify which one of the herd they are talking about.

## MicBri Acres offers sustainably-grown local products direct to consumers

**M**ichael (Mic) and Bridget (Bri) Klein of MicBri Acres LLC of rural Eden Valley know a thing or two about raising livestock. Mike grew up on a beef and hog farm in Redwood County. Bridget hails from a dairy farm in Pope County. Mike, retired from Meeker Co-op, and Bridget, a cardiac nurse at the St. Cloud Hospital, always wanted to get back into livestock production. Eleven years ago, they purchased acreage off of Highway 22, built a house and outbuildings, and purchased their first four head of Lowline (recently renamed American Aberdeen) beef cattle from a neighbor.

“The original genetics came from Scotland,” Bridget said. “They wanted a name to reflect that.”

The Kleins knew they wanted to raise grass-fed beef, and were looking for a breed that does the best and can finish on only grass.

“The American Aberdeen has a lower frame, is deep-bodied and uses food very efficiently, so they can eat only grass and do well,” Bridget said. Mike and Bridget also appreciate that the musculature of an Aberdeen Angus is smaller, allowing greater intramuscular marbling for a juicier, more tender, and more flavorful eating experience.

Mike and Bridget raise their cattle holistically, maximizing nutrition and livestock health through sustainable farming techniques, one of which is rotational grazing.

“Rotational grazing, or providing the cattle with fresh grass by moving them to a new pasture area daily, provides maximum animal health, as well as healthy pasture land,” Bridget explained.

Bridget explained that a fresh grass supply each day means the cows only take the top portion of the grass stalks, which contains the most sugar and nutritional content and is the tastiest bits for the cattle.

“Rotational grazing leaves at least 50 percent of



Michael and Bridget Klein of MicBri Acres LLC, Eden Valley.

the stalk behind, which acts like a solar panel, absorbing the sun’s rays and turning it into sugars through photosynthesis and allowing the grass to recover more quickly. If you allow the cattle to eat more than 50 percent of the stalk, then the roots begin to die back.”

MicBri cattle have access to shelter and fresh water year-round, but spend the majority of the winter in pasture. “We create “packs” or bedding areas in the winter pasture using cornstalk bales and straw bales for the cattle to lay on,” Mike said. “We’ll turn them during the year to aid the decomposing and growth of microbes. In the fall, after the pastures been grazed, we spread that on the pastures.”

“By maintaining soil health, the microbes in the soil lead to healthy plants, and rotational grazing maximizes both plant and animal health,” Bridget added. “It’s an ounce of prevention to avoid a pound of cure.” Bridget noted that rarely are antibiotics used, and then only under a veterinarian’s supervision. “We use holistic methods to try to minimize any health issues we have with the cattle.”

In addition to the grass, the Kleins provide free-choice minerals for the cattle. “They choose what they need,” Bridget said. “Nature’s pretty amazing. When we work with it, it’s amazing what it can do.”

The market for their beef is good and continues to grow.

“People are becoming more health-conscious and are understanding the benefits of grass-fed beef. Then there are people who like to purchase local products, so being able to pair the local with the grass-fed is important,” Bridget said.

Most of the advertising MicBri Acres does is word of mouth. They maintain an email list of past consumers and let them know when there is meat available for purchase. They sell whole, half, quarter and even less, according to the need of the consumer. They even offer older cattle for ground beef at a reduced cost.

“We welcome anyone interested in our product to come out and visit, and bring the kids,” Bridget said. Currently, a new batch of newborn calves are romping through the pasture which is fun to watch.

“Watching the cows peacefully grazing is really good for the soul,” Bridget said.

### Garlic, garlic, garlic!

As if Mike and Bridget weren't busy enough, they have added another product to their direct-marketing business...Garlic!

After attending the Garlic Festival one year, they came home with bulbs to grow just for themselves. They decided that garlic would also be a viable direct-market product.

“There's a very big difference between store-bought garlic and garlic that has been grown locally,” Bridget said. “There's a difference in both size and flavor.”

Currently, they harvest about 3700 garlic plants, comprised of six different varieties. The cloves of garlic are planted in October each year and are harvested in August. All the work is done by hand.

“This is where the grandkids help,” Mike said. “It gets them back to taking part in nature. They come every year for a “planting and pizza” party. We can get about 1600 plants an hour with four grandkids and me.”

Garlic is generally sold in variety packs of 12 bulbs, which gives customers an idea of the different flavors and qualities of each. Any garlic that is left after their customers take what they want is taken to local food shelves and other organizations.

“We go through a lot of garlic when we make spaghetti sauce and salsa, too,” Bridget said. Oh, and they also



**Bridget rolls up movable electric fencing. The poly and wire fencing and plastic stakes allow the Kleins to move fencing quickly as they relocate the herd from one pasture to another on a daily basis.**

grow their own spaghetti sauce and salsa ingredients in their “spare” time!

Any members interested in purchasing grass-fed beef or garlic can find MicBri Acres on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/micbriacres](http://www.facebook.com/micbriacres), by email at [micbriacres@hotmail.com](mailto:micbriacres@hotmail.com), or by phone at 320-221-1943.

## Industry News

### Great River Energy files 2017 Integrated Resource Plan

**O**n April 28, Great River Energy submitted its plan to reliably and cost-effectively meet its member cooperatives' energy needs for the next 15 years to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Resource decisions are ultimately approved by Great River Energy's board of directors and member systems, but having the PUC's acceptance of the IRP reflects positively on future resource plans.

“The IRP reflects our transitioning resource portfolio toward a more flexible energy future given market changes in the upper Midwest,” said Lauren Ross McCalib, director of resource planning. “Our preferred plan continues a path of carbon-reduction and includes the addition of carbon-free generation. It also details a strategy for environmentally-beneficial electrification by encouraging the smart use of electricity in new ways.”

The IRP provides a full view of Great River Energy's vision, initiatives and future resource plans to best serve the needs of its members. It aligns with the cooperative's mission to provide members with affordable, reliable energy and environmental stewardship while positioning itself to best serve members now and in the future. A decision by the PUC is expected in the spring of 2018.

~Press Release

### Evidence of a decline in electricity use by U.S. homes

**B**etween 1950 and 2010, U.S. residential electricity consumption per capita increased 10-fold, an annual increase of 4 percent per year. But that electricity trend has changed recently. American households use less electricity than they did five years ago. Consumption dipped significantly in 2012 and has remained flat, even as the economy has improved considerably.

The decrease has been experienced broadly, in virtually all U.S. states. Between 2010 and 2015, per capita residential electricity consumption declined in 48 out of 50 states.

So what is different? Energy-efficient lighting. Over 450 million LEDs have been installed to date in the United States, up from less than half a million in 2009, and nearly 70 percent of Americans have purchased at least one LED bulb. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are even more common, with 70 percent-plus of households owning some CFLs. All told, energy-efficient lighting now accounts for 80 percent of all U.S. lighting sales.

~Energy Institute at Haas

## Worried about Water in Your Basement?

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.

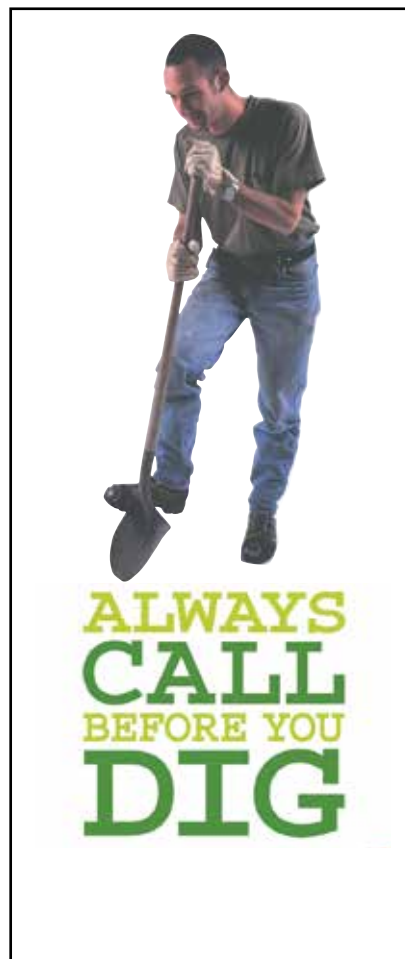
Call us today and be prepared before seasonal rains turn into a headache!



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Coop Members: Ask about your discount!





## Keeping your pets and energy bill comfy

When summer comes, you don't need to leave the air conditioning on full blast for Spot and Fluffy. Dogs and cats have higher body temperatures than humans, and they are comfortable with temperatures between 78 and 82 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition, dogs and cats sweat differently than humans, so running fans will not have the same effect it has on you. Other ways to keep your pets comfortable when its warm outside include:

- For indoor pets, keep shades drawn and direct light filtered. Provide cool areas to rest, such as a basement or a tile floor with a cooling mat. If you don't have air conditioning, open windows and use a fan to circulate air.
- For outdoor pets, provide a shady spot with plenty of airflow, such as under a tree or a tarp. Trees are much better than a dog house because air can flow through. A dog house in the sun can be a sweltering place for an animal. A kiddie pool will help them cool off in really hot weather.
- Give them plenty of water, perhaps with ice, or cool treats, like peanut butter popsicles.
- Exercise pets during the cooler parts of the day to prevent heat fatigue.



## April Outage Summary

There were 34 outages in April. Out of the 34 outages, five were caused by squirrels or critters, five by lightning, and five due to material changeouts. These were the most frequent causes of outages during April.

The two outages affecting the most consumers were due to an equipment failure south of Glencoe on April 12 which affected 91 members and lasted 55 minutes, and an outage caused by a motor vehicle or machinery on April 9 that knocked out power to 89 members south of Hutchinson for an hour and 20 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.



Any MCPA electric member who purchases ENERGY STAR® or DLC-rated LED bulbs or fixtures may apply for a

**\$3 per bulb rebate**  
Limit of ten bulbs, for a total rebate of \$30

Purchase your high efficiency LED bulbs or fixtures at any retailer.

ENERGY WISE MN

Rebate forms and details available on Co-op's website at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). (Click on Customer Service tab and then click on Rebates & Cash Back. Downloadable rebate forms at the bottom of the page).

## 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 June 28 to be included in the July issue. Thank you!

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

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

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

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

#### Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Please check ad category

- Giveaway
- For Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted

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

### For Sale Miscellaneous

- Sears range. Works. \$75. 320-587-4446
- Pickup camper topper for wide box pickup. \$800. 320-587-4446
- Gold Wing rear tire/rim. G704 radial, 180/60R 16 m/c 74H. \$200. 320-234-7599
- Transfer pump 825 series used very little. 320-583-7360
- Lawn mower MTO 22in, 3.75 HP motor. \$55. 320-587-7746
- 2006 Buick Lucerne CXS 126,500 miles. 320-583-0817
- Backhoe attachment for category 1. 3 pnt hitch. \$2,500. 320-979-6313
- 353 Detroit diesel motor. 320-485-3726
- Schwartz snow bucket. 320-582-1534
- 2 old Dynamark lawn mowers. 320-582-1534

- 2-used #45 Catipillar tracks. 320-485-3726
- 2ft X 10ft and 2ft X 18ft insulated garage door panels. \$35/each. 320-485-2649
- Wi-Fi router Linksys AC1900, like new \$75. 320-833-5844
- Whirlpool bath for bathtub \$20. 320-833-5844

### For Sale Farm

- 2 thrower racks. 320-562-2424
- 300 gallon sprayer. 320-562-2424
- Automatic portable roller mill w/blower. Model #ATG-B 1200X4. 507-327-1869
- Massy Harris 44 with trip loader. OK condition. 320-587-8386
- Round bales of meadow hay. 320-485-3726
- 2-250 bushel gravity boxes. 320-582-1534
- 3 sickle mowers. 320-522-2167

- 500 gallon spray tank bracket for field cultivation no tank. 320-582-1534
- 1958 Ford tandem truck no box. 320-582-1534
- MN250 gravity box. 320-522-2167
- 800JD swater for parts. 320-522-2167
- Two wheel hog trailer 4x5x10 ft. \$50. 320-310-5673

### For Rent

- Branson one bedroom condo \$400/weekly. 320-779-0015

### Wanted

- Clean wood pallets and/or crating. 320-864-5842

*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.*

# Special Electric Co-op Recognition for MN Representative Collin Peterson



CEOs, co-op directors, and representatives from Minnesota rural electric co-ops were present when Collin Peterson received his award. No one from McLeod Co-op Power was present in Washington D.C.

In Washington, D.C. recently, Minnesota Rural Electric Association member cooperative representatives packed a hearing room, to honor Representative Collin Peterson. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson joined the group to present the NRECA Distinguished Service Award, to the 13-term lawmaker for his career of service. The co-op delegation responded with a standing ovation for the Congressman.

As he so often does, Peterson took the time to provide an update to cooperative members in attendance, as well as listen and respond to the issues at hand that day. Within hours of the meeting, his office was already responding to the issues discussed.

“Peterson has stood strong with co-ops on several issues,” said Darrick Moe, CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association in Maple Grove. Coordinating House support

for Rural Utilities Service funding; asking the Environmental Protection Agency during Clean Power Plan rollout for enough time for compliance; and backing efforts to preserve the use of large-capacity electric water heaters in load control programs, among other things. “In general, he is very supportive of virtually all of our priorities, and routinely crosses party lines to support rural electric cooperative positions,” said Moe.

The NRECA Board of Directors bestows its Distinguished Service Award upon a national leader who has made outstanding contributions to the progress of electric cooperatives and whose history of support for rural electrification and public power merits special recognition. Former recipients have included Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Hubert Humphrey, Jo Ann Emerson and Heidi Heitkamp.

**Marathon**  
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- No-leak warranty for as long as you own your home.
- 6-year warranty on thermostat and elements, including labor.



## Tidbits for history buffs

Below are excerpts taken from *75 Years of Service*, a book of the history of McLeod Co-op Power published in 2010. Members who have an interest in history may request a copy at the Co-op office.

- Eighty percent of housewives on Minnesota REA lines were doing the family wash electrically in 1941, and 87 percent had electric irons. In 28 percent of the farm kitchens electric refrigerators were providing safe and economical food storage. Almost 90 percent had modern radios to bring them all the information and entertainment available on the air to those who lived in cities.
- Most months in the early 1940's, *Our Line* (the Co-op newsletter) reported who the largest kilowatt users were the previous month. This included farms, homes, and commercial users. Creameries were often located in rural areas and received electricity from REA. Even if they did not cool the milk electrically, they were sometimes large users such as Round Grove Creamery, Heatwole Creamery, and Lakeside Creamery. Businesses like Lakeside Store, Charles Borchardt (Metal Works) of New Germany, and Eddsville Store were frequently on the list.
- The Cooperative's largest energy user during the early 1940's was the Platwood Club, a restaurant, nightclub and bowling alley located along Highway 212 between Plato and Norwood (thus the name Platwood). The Platwood Club used between 3,000 to 5,000 kWh per month. The Platwood was built by Frank (Shorty) Dvorak in 1931. In 1942, he added four new bowling lanes. The place burned to the ground in February 1945, after a furnace kicking on supposedly ignited fumes from the bowling lanes being reconditioned. The Waconia Patriot reported the fire as a loss of \$35,000.



## We need your phone # for faster outage reporting

To make reporting a power outage as fast and easy as possible, the Co-op needs your current landline or cell phone number in our billing data base.

Please check the Service Summary box, located in the upper right hand corner of your electric bill.

### Is your phone # correct?

If it is correct, you do not need to do anything. If it is not correct, please call or e-mail our office, or write us a note with the correct number when you send in your bill payment.

If you share both your landline and cell phone numbers, that's even better. When you call in to the Co-op's 1-800-927-5685 outage line and the number you call from matches what we have on your billing account, the process is much faster and easier. It will reduce your time waiting on the phone in the dark to report your power is out. We appreciate your help in this matter.

## MCPA partners with Subway to put on safety programs in area schools



Lineman Craig Marti gave 4th graders at GSL in Silver Lake the opportunity to try on some line worker gear after learning about electrical safety.

Cooperative employees have teamed up with Subway to educate students about electrical safety before they head home for summer vacation.



Subway provides a cookie coupon for each student who completes the safety presentation. Cooperative employees visited Glencoe Silver Lake Elementary School in May. Line workers and safety employees worked with 4th graders in Silver Lake on being safe around electricity.

It is our goal to educate students about safety hazards in their homes, yards and neighborhoods. It is a good reminder about the great things electricity does for us all, but only if we use it properly. In many of the classes linemen let students try on safety gear and tools to get a feel for their job.

## McLeod Co-op Power has been educating students about electrical safety for decades

Electrical safety education is nothing new. MCPA has been offering safety programs in the schools for decades. Safety videos and the technology have changed over the years, but the messages on safety have remained consistent. Electricity benefits us in many ways but we need to respect it and follow established rules to work safely around it. Maybe you were in one of these classes.



Students at Glencoe High School in 1990 participated in a safety class given by McLeod Co-op.



Ninth grade science students from Brownton visited the Co-op for a safety demonstration in 1989.

## Safety Tips for Portable, Standby Generators

Generators can be a lifesaver for some after a major storm, and can improve the quality of life during restoration of an outage.

“However, it’s critical that proper safety precautions be taken to prevent accidents that could affect you, a family member, neighbor, or utility lineworker,” says Molly Hall, Director of SafeElectricity.org.

Generators can be temporarily or permanently installed. A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch. This protects you, your neighbors, and repair crews from electricity backfeeding onto power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near those lines, especially co-op crews working to restore power. A temporary generator fired by gasoline or diesel fuel should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet.

Because the improper use of a standby generator can lead to injury or death, SafeElectricity.org urges you to follow these tips to keep you and your family safe:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before starting it up.
- Standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system—use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage or basement. Generators produce gases, including deadly carbon monoxide. They require proper ventilation.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.



Portable generators are helpful during an extended power outage, but they can be extremely dangerous if not used properly.

- There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.

For more safety information on the use of portable and standby generators and safety after a storm, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).