

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

October 2017

McLeod Co-op Power linemen assist with restoring power following Hurricane Irma

Minnesota electric cooperatives mobilized line workers to assist crews in restoring power in parts of Florida that were ravaged by Hurricane Irma. Fourteen line workers from six Minnesota electric cooperatives departed from Minnesota on Sunday, September 10. They worked in Florida for over one week.

Minnesota cooperatives sending crews were:

- Lake Region Electric Co-op, Pelican Rapids
- McLeod Co-op Power Association, Glencoe
- Meeker Cooperative, Litchfield
- Minnesota Valley Electric Co-op, Jordan
- Stearns Electric Association, Melrose
- Todd-Wadena Electric Co-op, Wadena



Brad Hundt and Grant Miller were the two MCPA line workers that travelled to Florida to help restore power after Hurricane Irma.



Grant Miller is shown working on a downed line. There are many water oak trees in that area that were easily uprooted.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association coordinated with the Florida Electric Cooperative Association, which has seventeen member electric co-ops within the state. These Minnesota crews headed to Suwannee Valley Co-op (SVEC) in Live Oak, Florida. They arrived on Tuesday, September 12. SVEC maintains over 4,300 miles of electric distribution lines in northern Florida, near the Georgia state line.

McLeod Co-op Power linemen Grant Miller and Brad Hundt had three long days on the road traveling to SVEC. The last day of travel from Mississippi to Live Oak, Florida was supposed to be a seven-hour drive and it took 14 hours due to backed-up and congested highways with all of the Floridians who had

Hurricane Irma help continued on page 3

Additional tax for Carver and Wright Counties

Carver and Wright Counties have instituted an additional “local” sales tax of 0.5%. The new tax, beginning October 1, 2017, will apply to retail sales made within those counties. For electricity sales, McLeod Cooperative Power will first apply the tax to Carver and Wright County members on the bill produced in November (for October services). The county sales tax collected by the Cooperative is passed through to the MN Department of Revenue, who then distributes it back to Carver and Wright Counties.

This new tax will also apply to purchases of water heaters, yard lights, generators, and any other products if the member receiving the equipment resides in Carver or Wright Counties. These taxes apply to all retail sales within the counties, not just electric utility sales. They also apply to taxable services and tangible personal property purchased outside the county but shipped or delivered into the county for use in the county. Revenues collected will fund projects identified in each county’s Transportation Tax Implementation Plans, usually to fund road and bridge building projects. The additional one-half of a percent sales tax was not implemented by McLeod, Renville, or Sibley Counties at this time.

Co-op’s website now more user friendly



McLeod Co-op Power has just finished some revisions and upgrades to its website www.mcleodcoop.com. Besides incorporating the Co-op’s new logo, the website will now be more user-friendly for mobile device users. The goal has been to make it easier for members to

find information on the web page and make more downloadable forms available online.

The website will still take viewers to the outage map or daily load control with just one click. We encourage you to visit www.mcleodcoop.com and add it to your favorites to find it quickly.

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

Cooperatives: Communities at their very best

Electric cooperatives have been a part of the fabric of Minnesota for more than 80 years. Fourth- and fifth-generation members today enjoy the same benefits of membership as the pioneers who strung the first wires into Minnesota's countryside.

By my observation, Minnesotans are naturally drawn to lakes, rivers and the outdoors. The first summer weekend my husband and I were here, we walked outside to an eerily quiet neighborhood. We discovered it was quiet because everyone had gone to the "cabin" or camping. Our state depends heavily on the land for recreation, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing. Co-ops allow us to do all those things.

You can still find seniors in the community who remember when the Co-op formed, first bringing lights and then a long line of conveniences. Today's younger members grew up expecting electricity at all times, and they depend on their cooperative for the energy to power smart phones and broadband.

Though the uses for electricity have changed, the sense of cooperative membership remains the same. That's because the members are the owners of McLeod Cooperative Power. Members vote for their friends and neighbors to oversee the cooperative, entrusting an elected board of directors to use their investment wisely for a dependable power supply.

Cooperatives also form a community of their own kind. When one cooperative endures a tornado, flood or storm, cooperatives from across Minnesota spring to action. Neighboring co-ops have sent mutual aid crews to McLeod Co-op Power and we have sent crews to other co-ops in their times of need. In fact, we sent a crew to Florida to help restore power as a result of Hurricane Irma.

"It's no easy job bringing electricity to our members, and the support of our fellow cooperatives give us added strength when we need it," said Dan Schade, Operations Manager for McLeod Co-op Power.

McLeod Co-op Power belongs to another union of cooperatives. McLeod Co-op Power and 27 other cooperatives collectively own Great River Energy, a wholesale power cooperative that generates electricity at power plants and wind farms, and delivers electricity across long distances through a high-voltage transmission network.

Cooperatives are much more than energy companies: concern for community is a core principle of the cooperative business model. Typical cooperative-sponsored economic development initiatives include revitalization projects, job creation, improvement of water and sewer systems and assistance in delivery of health care and educational services.

In short, as a co-op it is our mission to seek to improve the quality of life for our members and our communities.

Logo development on a frugal budget

As we mentioned in previous newsletters, it was time for a refresh of the Co-ops 17-year-old logo. This refresh was made not only to reflect changes in our business offerings and distribution system, but also because we rejoined Touchstone Energy and wanted to reflect that in our logo.

Since our new logo has launched we've had some good feedback but also concern from members about the cost of developing a new logo.



I'm actually quite pleased that it looks good enough to appear it was expensive. However, let me assure you, it was not expensive and we did not hire an expensive advertising firm to develop the logo. Our Board of Directors is always cost conscious and allowed us to proceed only under the assumption it was at minimal cost.

We took advantage of a coupon offer by a local business for less than \$300 for logo development. By contrast, I've been at another organization that spent thousands of dollars with a marketing firm to launch a new logo and advertising campaign.

We took our time and involved the employees through a vote of their favorite logo design and the Board had the final approval. New stickers for trucks were ordered when we received a low-cost proposal from Greater MN Communications of Winsted. Our own employees will be changing out the signs on the trucks and at substations, as they have time.

I am thankful to the members who told us of their concerns. We can't address a concern if we don't hear about it.

As always, I am pleased to hear from you. An engaged membership is important to us.

Carrie

Board of Directors

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier

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

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President

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

District 3 - David Resch

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

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

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

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft

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

District 6 - Gary Burdorf

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

District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

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

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

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

District 9 - Gerald Roepke,

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

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

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Editor: Sue Pawelk
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cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com

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All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
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McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Turn in your rebate applications now!

Do not wait until December if you want to receive a rebate for your energy efficient appliance purchase or rebate-eligible heating/cooling/water heating program participation. Send your rebate form for any purchase in now. Rebate forms are available on the Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com or by calling the office.

Hurricane Irma help *continued from page 1*

evacuated trying to get home after officials began allowing them back into their communities.

McLeod's linemen worked 6 AM to 8 PM daily for most of the eight days they did restoration work on SVEC's project. One night they worked until 9:30 PM. They said that Suwannee Valley Co-op took care of them with a breakfast each morning that included grits. They were sent off with a packed lunch in an insulated lunch bag and they had a supper waiting for them after 8 PM when they got back in. They were also fortunate that SVEC could put them up in local hotel accommodations that had power, so a hot shower and comfortable night's sleep awaited them after their 14+ hour days. This Co-op had gone through other hurricanes in recent years so they had some experience with managing mutual aid crews and they had all of the basics covered for the crews.

SVEC had 22,500 of their 25,000 accounts without power after Hurricane Irma hit. Grant Miller, a MCPA line foreman, explained that SVEC worked to get their substations back up first. They paired each line crew with a SVEC employee and took responsibility for one feeder out of the sub. They worked on the same area daily, working out from the feeder to line outages and eventually individual outages.

They said the co-op members in Florida were very grateful and showed them southern hospitality. Many people gave them water, Gatorade, or food.



This is the group of linemen from the Minnesota Co-ops headed to Florida.

The crew said SVEC followed the same safety rules and grounding practices that our guys follow. They covered those safety instructions with crews before they began work, and also reminded them to be on-the-lookout for poisonous snakes, and a variety of spiders. They cautioned crews walking in the woods or through ditches to watch the ground for dangers. One of the guys working with Grant and Brad had a Copperhead snake cruise by right next to him.

MCPA was grateful to have our linemen back home safe and sound. We thank them for volunteering to go down and help. MCPA and other mutual-aid co-ops are reimbursed labor and some expenses by the Co-op that they help.

McLeod Co-op Power was glad to have its Facebook page available to provide regular updates for friends and family on how the restoration effort was going while the local linemen were in Florida. McLeod Co-op Power is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Farm safety around power lines

One more thing to do during harvest time? No thanks

It's already busy as tractors are bringing in produce and grain is going into silos. We at McLeod Co-op Power don't want to add anything else to your never-ending to-do list. Please remember to look up for power lines, to avoid a potentially costly and fatal situation.

"Avoid having more work to do during an already busy time, by taking the time to work safely," said Co-op General Manager Carrie Buckley. "Be aware of your surroundings and remember to look up. Those power lines are energized and bringing electricity to the farm. If you do come into contact with a power line, call 911 right away."

If you do make contact with a power line:

- Call 911 as soon as possible and keep the area clear until help arrives.
- If you can do so without risking your machinery or damaging utility infrastructure, drive at least 40 feet away.
- If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time, and land with feet together. Hop to safety in small steps to avoid electric shock by breaking the current's path.



Other tips for operating farm equipment around power lines include:

- Physical contact with a power line is extremely hazardous and may cause a lethal shock. Equipment should not be operated under a power line in a manner that would cause contact or near-contact with the wires.
- Do not lift, elevate, build or pass under a power line any object, tool or vehicle that may make contact or near-contact with the wires.
- To help prevent arc flashing, it is recommended that equipment, antennas and people stay at least 15 feet away from any energized power line wire.
- Equipment that can be extended, such as a stack mower or grain elevator, requires the utmost care when in the vicinity of a power line.

Have more questions about safety around power lines? Visit Great River Energy's website: <http://greatriverenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016-Safety-Brochure-lo.pdf>

2017 RESIDENTIAL REBATES

*Summary of rebates available from your co-op this year**

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

Dehumidifier	\$25
Electric Clothes Dryer.....	\$75

RECYCLING

Old Freezer or Refrigerator.....	\$75
(proof of recycling required)	

CONSERVATION

Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Up to \$500
toward installation & equipment	

ENERGY STAR SWIMMING POOL

Air Source Heat Pump Pool Heater.....	\$400
Variable Speed Pump	\$200

ENERGY STAR LIGHTING

LED Yard Light.....	\$60
LED Holiday Light Strings, (limit 10).....	\$2
LED Light Bulbs, (limit 10).....	\$3

HVAC

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Space Heating.....	\$50/kW
14.5 SEER Air Source Heat Pump.....	\$480
15 SEER Air Source Heat Pump.....	\$580
16 SEER or higher Air Source Heat Pump	\$630
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (delivered fuels)	\$300
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (primary electric heat)\$500	
Ground Source Heat Pump.....	\$400/ton
ECM (fan motor)	\$100

WATER HEATERS

Electric Storage Water Heating Program.....	\$400
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*This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial custom rebates. There is a \$2,000 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating does not have a \$2,000 maximum cap. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly.

Most downloadable rebate forms are available on the Co-op website at www.mcleodcoop.com (click on Customer Service tab). Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification, or other requirements.

Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvacreducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our cooperative website at www.mcleodcoop.com. There are no rebates on central air conditioners. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump. LED yard lights must be installed on consumer-owned building or facilities. Lights cannot be installed on Co-op power poles.

Is an electric vehicle in your future?

There's been a lot of talk about electric cars these days and with good reason. Sales of electric vehicles have increased 27 percent from 2015 to 2016 and sales in 2017 have already out-paced 2016 sales by 16.4 percent through August. This increase in sales is greater than any other type of vehicle in 2017. A recent Consumer Reports study found that 60 percent of Americans would consider an EV when making their next vehicle purchase.

Swedish car-maker Volvo claims they are “slamming on the brakes on vehicles powered solely by internal combustion engines, announcing that every car it makes from 2019 onward will have an electric motor.”

“Just how quickly will the average American warm up to electric vehicles? Aren't they just mainly for city people? What about “range anxiety?” Will I be able to get to the places I need to go without having to charge my vehicle? Aren't electric cars way too expensive for the average homeowner?” These are the most common questions consumers have when considering whether or not to purchase an electric vehicle.

Positive considerations

There are many things that drivers consider positive to driving an all-electric vehicle (EV) or a plug-in hybrid electric car (PHEV) that combines electric and gas.

1 Fuel Economy. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) notes that compared to internal combustion engines, EVs can be more than twice as energy efficient and save 70 percent in fuel costs. New labeling for EVs and PHEVs compare the average cost of driving with the cost of driving a comparable new internal combustion engine (ICE) over a five-year period. Go to fuelconomy.gov to calculate personalized estimates and compare vehicles. You will find that the new Chevy Bolt all-electric vehicle gets a combined city and highway estimate of 119 MPG and an annual fuel cost of \$550. A Nissan Rogue hybrid PHEV AWD will cost \$1,200 per year for fuel and have a combined 33 MPG.

2 Convenience. Electric cars can be charged overnight in the shelter of a garage, rather than standing out in the Minnesota winter filling the gas pump. EV owners don't have to worry about the volatility of gas prices at the pump. Electric prices are stable and change little from year to year.

3 EVs quiet engine requires far less maintenance than gas-powered engine. One study found that the maintenance costs of PEVs are approximately 35 percent lower than a comparable ICE vehicle. For hybrids, the Chevy Volt PHEV oil-change interval is 30,000 miles, significantly extended over the 5,000-mile interval for ICE vehicles. The regenerative braking feature of PHEVs also reduces brake wear and the electrical system typically requires minimal maintenance. An EV's maintenance is even lower, resulting in significant savings.

Consumer concerns

1 Range Anxiety. Many people are afraid that an electric car won't get them to where they wish to go on a consistent basis. However, a study conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists in



One of the more popular EVs, the Nissan Leaf starts around \$30,000 and has a range of 107 miles.

conjunction with Consumer Reports states that 69 percent of drivers in the U.S. travel less than 60 miles on weekdays, which is within the range of many EVs today. The ongoing increase in available charging stations around the state is debunking the fear that you “can't get there from here.”

2 Cost. There is a misconception that electric vehicle cost is prohibitive for the average car shopper. However, the average Ford Focus EV version is about \$29,000 while a standard Focus sedan starts at about \$16,700 and a Focus Hatch begins at about \$19,700. Keep in mind that there is currently a federal tax credit worth up to \$7,500 depending on the size of the vehicle's battery. With the discount, the Focus EV would end up costing about \$21,500. Compare the EV mileage at 118/96 MPG highway/city, and the reduction in fuel and maintenance costs, and an EV is a very viable choice.

However, it should be noted that depending on the vehicle, battery replacement can be very expensive should it be required before the end of the vehicle's life. Pricing for the Nissan Leaf battery currently starts around \$5,500. Keep that in mind when comparing costs and features. Battery life is dependent on many things, so it's difficult to determine. Do your homework before choosing your car. A good discussion on battery life can be found at cleantechnica.com/2016/05/31/battery-lifetime-long-can-electric-vehicle-batteries-last. As with all technology, the longer it exists, the lower the cost. This is true of EV batteries as well, as prices for replacement batteries are continuing to decrease.



This charging station map is available at www.plugshare.com and shows the number of charging stations in Minnesota. Just enlarge the online map to see exactly where they are located.

Plug-In Options

A growing number of businesses across the state are installing EV charging stations, as are retailers, parks and gas stations. If planning to install a car charger at home or planning your trip around car charging stations, the type of charger will determine the amount of time to achieve a charge.

According to previous NRECA Business and Technology Strategies studies, EV batteries and PHEV batteries are fully recharged after eight to 12 hours when connected to a regular 120-V outlet (Level 1).

For quicker charging a Level 2 charger utilizing a 240-V outlet, will recharge a battery in about four

hours. High-speed DC Fast Chargers (Level 3) can replenish a fully depleted battery to about 80 percent in 30 minutes. Costs vary, depending on the type of charger and installation.

For more information on EVs, visit the Dept. of Energy's Plug-In Electric Vehicle Handbook for Consumers at www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/pev_consumer_handbook.pdf.

For a map of current charging stations around the country, visit www.plugshare.com.

Sources: Consumer Reports, EPRI, Business & Technology Strategies (August 2017), CFC Solutions, U.S. Department of Energy

Industry News

10 giant companies commit to electric vehicles, sending auto industry a message

A coalition of global corporations, including Unilever, Ikea and shipping giant DHL, have launched a global campaign to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles and away from gas- and diesel-powered transportation.

Since more than half of the cars on the road belong to companies, the new EV100 coalition could have a major impact. It aims to do for EVs and electric car charging infrastructure what coalitions such as the RE100 are already doing to encourage corporate purchasing of clean energy (and thus motivating development of new solar and wind power). EV100's goal is to send a signal to automakers that there is mass demand for electric vehicles before 2030, when current forecasts suggest global uptake will start to really ramp up.

Among the 10 companies that launched EV100 with a goal of getting to 100 members, seven are committing to replacing part or all of their vehicle fleets with hydrogen-powered or plug-in electric cars—either fully battery electric or plug-in hybrids that combine grid-charging and a conventional engine. Others, such as Ikea and PG&E, have committed to building the charging stations that make electric cars more practical.

~Inside Climate News

Kury: Underground Power Lines Not Necessarily Cheaper Or Safer.

In an op-ed in the Houston Chronicle, (9/13, Kury, 1.97M) Theodore J. Kury, director of Energy Studies at the University of Florida, discusses the pros and cons of burying power lines. Known as "undergrounding," he says it is "expensive, requires the involvement of many stakeholders and might not solve the problem" of power line damage at all.

As an example, Kury explains that in the North Carolina Utilities Commission and electric utilities previously explored the feasibility of undergrounding all of the state's distribution lines, but concluded that "the project would take 25 years to complete and increase electricity rates by 125 percent." In addition, Kury says that underground power lines may be "more susceptible to damage from corrosive storm surge and flooding." He recommends that the relocation of power lines underground should be evaluated "individually by the local distribution utility and its regulator – otherwise consumers will end up spending more for their electricity service, and getting less."

~NRECA Washington News Briefing

Discover the Cooperative Advantage.



ABOUT AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

The nation's member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops comprise a unique sector of the electric utility industry – and face a unique set of challenges.

Distribution cooperatives form the foundation of the rural electric network delivering electricity to 42 million co-op consumer-members. Generation & transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

Whether it's a co-op serving a remote fishing village above the Arctic Circle or a co-op serving a marine research lab in the Florida Keys, electric co-ops share a single purpose: providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to their consumer-members.

CO-OPS ARE GUIDED BY 7 PRINCIPLES

- 1 Voluntary & Open Membership
- 2 Democratic Member Control
- 3 Members' Economic Participation
- 4 Autonomy & Independence
- 5 Education Training & Information
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7 Concern for Community



Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

Make plans now to pay your bill to avoid being without electricity this winter.

McLeod Cooperative Power regularly disconnects the electrical supply of members who do not pay for the electricity they use. While we dislike to have to disconnect members, it would not be fair to our other members if we allow certain members to use electricity for free while our other members pay.

The Cold Weather Rule was adopted to protect some people from having their primary source of electric heat disconnected between October 15 and April 15. However, this law doesn't mean there won't be disconnections. The law says that a person must be making regular payments or have set up a payment plan and be honoring those arrangements to avoid being disconnected. If you are behind in your payments and are counting on the Cold Weather Rule to protect

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing disconnections this winter in accordance with the law.

Please read the full Cold Weather Rule summary below. The list of agencies who can provide assistance to qualifying residents having trouble paying their bill is on this page and is also listed on the back of any electric bill with a delinquent balance.

It is up to the member to make payment arrangements or seek assistance to avoid disconnection. Please do not wait. The sooner you contact us, the greater the chance you will have electricity all winter long. Call today at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 for details about applying for shut-off protection or to make a reasonable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if the customer has met the requirements under item 1 below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- You have contacted MCPA, have set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather months, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.

- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.
- Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.

Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Attention military personnel

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available upon request.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

United Community Action Partnership

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson MN 55350
Toll free: 800-992-1710
McLeod: 800-829-2132

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330 (Hutchinson
Toll-Free)
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program

105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202
1-800-363-2533

Sibley County area

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services

111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000
1-866-396-9963

MN Valley Action Council

110 6th Street, P.O. Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-2981
706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency

712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952)-496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

Building a new house?

Talk to the Co-op's energy experts in the early planning stages

McLeod Co-op Power has energy experts available to provide you with information that will make your new home more energy efficient year after year. The Co-op can provide information to its members at no cost on topics such as the most efficient heating and cooling options, rebates available for energy-efficient appliances, water heating programs, and lighting options.



A call to the Co-op is in your best interest whether you are remodeling, replacing a heating or air conditioning system, or building a new home or shop. When you start your project armed with wise energy efficiency advice and a knowledge of rebates available, it will increase your odds of getting a home or system that satisfies you.

Call 1-800-494-6272 and ask to speak to an Energy Management Specialist.

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 October 28 to be included in the November issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

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

For Sale Miscellaneous

- 4-wheel Bobcat scooter w/battery charger. Like new. \$625. 320-587-8749
- Fire/campfire wood. 320-327-3168
- 1998 Ford F150, manual, clean, great condition. 320-510-1966
- Wagner airless paint sprayer, model 9155. Never used. \$250. 320-238-2272
- vKitchenAid counter oven. Holds 6 slices toast. Like new. \$75. 320-587-8749
- Beautiful settings of gold trim China. B0. 320-864-3282
- H & S 6ft X 10ft trailer. 320-587-7746
- Ladies bicycle in good condition. 320-587-7746
- Full size pickup aluminum tool box. Very good. \$75. 507-964-2339
- Maytag over the range microwave. 320-522-2167
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable tops. \$15/each. 952-353-2351

For Sale Farm

- 300 gallon gas tank w/stand. \$60. 952-657-2431
- Loftness #10821G snow blower, HD 1000RPM PTO, 9ft dbl auger. 507-381-8280
- White 549 5X18 auto reset mounted plow. 320-587-6863
- New Holland 851 round baler. 320-587-863
- White Case 3 bottom plow. 320-522-2167
- 3 Sioux gates. 2-16ft, 1-14ft. Make offer. 320-583-7355

Wanted

- Large round hog feeder cover. 612-210-3357
- Unwanted riding lawn mowers, snow blowers, tillers. Free pickup. 320-587-9207

Giveaway

- Black walnuts. 320-864-4484
- Cats. 320-587-7746

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.

Tidbits for history buffs

The news item below appeared in the April 1948 issue of "Our Line," the Cooperative's newsletter. It also appeared in "75 Years of Service 1935-2010" book of MCPA's history.

SCHOOL 3800th CONNECTED MEMBER

As is customary, we make a special announcement of every 100th member who has received service. We are very pleased to inform our readers that our 3800th user is Renville County School District No. 133, located in Section five, Brookfield township. No, this district or school board was not lax in having electricity sooner. They did want it, but there was a matter of cost as the school is located one-half mile from our existing line and as there are no farm places close by, their rates, therefore, became greater than for most other schools.



Miss Lippert and pupils of School District No. 133

The school board comprised of Roscoe Grams, chairman; Clarence McBride, clerk; and William Hackbarth, treasurer; decided that the pupils in this district should enjoy the benefits of modern lighting in their school and made application for same. The service was completed last December

and electricity was first used for the Christmas program, in fact, our construction crew and the electrician, Hans Petterson, did some special hustling to have the job completed for the occasion.

This school, a one-room structure, is well illuminated with four fluorescent fixtures. The teacher, Miss Phyllisann Lippert, whose home is at Olivia, notes an increased ability on the part of the pupils to study, due to adequate lighting. Their posture has improved and they experience less headaches. Lights, during the winter months, are frequently used the entire day.

Eleven children are at present enrolled. They are: Diane M. Grams, Doris M. Hackbarth, Dorothy Zachow, Glen Dovenmuehle, Ronnie Grams, Margaret Hackbarth, LaVonne Varland, Donald Carte, Glendon Zachow, Une Dovenmuehle and Martha Hackbarth.

We hope you all enjoy electricity in your school and will use it to prepare hot lunches, too.



Electric Lights Make for Better Studying

Aug 2017 Outage Summary

During the month of August the Cooperative had a total of 53 outages, affecting 3,430 consumers. Lightning was the most frequent cause of outages, with 14 outages attributed to lightning.

The largest outages were on August 24 and 25, as described below. The August 28 dig-in affected many members in McLeod County.

Stretch of August outages not caused by storms

An outage on a transmission line along Hwy. 212, near Buffalo Lake, caused power problems on Thursday, August 24. Just before 1:00 in the afternoon, one conductor on the transmission line went down. This caused the outage and started a grass fire. About 522 members in Renville County were without power for 49 minutes. Members near Buffalo Lake, which are served from the Preston Lake Substation, were out for 65 minutes. MCPA restored power to members by back-feeding power from alternate sources. This outage also caused a momentary blink for thousands of other members living in Renville, Sibley and McLeod Counties.

Later that afternoon, after Xcel Energy had repaired the downed line, a second conductor went down in the

same area. This caused about 500 MCPA members in the Hector area to be without power for 27 minutes. Transmission lines are owned and operated by individual transmission companies, however, they share the use of lines to transport electricity with many different distribution utilities along the line's route.

Members in the Hector area were again without electricity for a few hours on Friday night, August 25 when a conductor broke between Hector and Bird Island. Power was restored to MCPA members in approximately 2.5 hours by back-feeding power to MCPA lines.

On Monday, August 28 an excavator dug into the Co-op's underground line north of Glencoe about 10:00 AM., even though the contractor had followed the proper steps to get utilities in the area located. Of the 892 MCPA members affected, restoral times varied, but everyone had power back on by 11:30 AM.

McLeod Co-op Power regrets any inconvenience these outages caused for our members. The Co-op reminds everyone that any downed power line can be dangerous. People should stay away from downed lines and immediately report the situation to 911, or their utility if they know who owns the power lines.

Wedding bells for a couple who met on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour



Vanessa and Ethan and other youth reps on the Washington D.C. Tour bus in 2012.



Group of students from 2012 NRECA Washington D.C. Youth Tour posing for a fun photo while touring. Ethan is kneeling and Vanessa is the girl on the right.



The same '52 Chevy Deluxe, owned by Vanessa's dad, that transported the couple to Vanessa's senior prom, also transported the newlyweds to their wedding reception.

Five years after meeting on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, Ethan Ryberg and Vanessa Peterson were married. These two youth tour participants generously shared their story of meeting on the tour and the path their lives have taken until getting married this past July.

Ethan Ryberg was a student at BOLD High School. In 2012, he was chosen to represent McLeod Co-op Power on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. His parents, Brian and Sandy Ryberg of rural Buffalo Lake, are members of McLeod Co-op Power.

Vanessa Peterson was from Rosholt, SD. It is a small town of around 550 people. She also grew up on a farm, with her parents, Mike and Deb Peterson, and her siblings. In 2012 she was the Washington D.C. Youth Tour representative for Traverse Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Wheaton, Minnesota but also providing electric service to a portion of northeastern South Dakota.

They flew to Washington D.C. with a group of youth reps from other Minnesota electric cooperatives. Once in D.C. they met up with youth representatives from 42 other states.

Ethan recalled, "We flew out together from Minneapolis. We both remember each other from the meet and greet. Vanessa was standing in a group of people and I walked up behind her and said she was the perfect height because I could still see everybody!"

Ethan, Vanessa, and rest of the Minnesota youth delegation spent almost a week touring Washington D.C. monuments, the Smithsonian Institute, the Newseum, Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, the Vietnam Memorial, the 9/11 Memorial, and the WWII Memorial. They visited with congressional legislators and learned how the government process works.

Ethan and Vanessa recalled the youth tour as being a great way to meet other kids who are driven, ambitious, and hard working. They shared, "The tours and monuments we saw offered



Mr. & Mrs. Ethan Ryberg on their wedding day.

great perspective on history and the growth of our country." They added, "Being part of a such a positive experience was a great kick-off to our senior years and motivation that we can do anything we set our minds to."

"We would definitely recommend the tour to others," they said. "It was an amazing experience that will never be forgotten! There are absolutely no negatives either, as it was free!"

Ethan added, "When my sister McKaia was selected to attend (in 2017), I was very excited that she would be able to have the same experience that we had. I told her to be herself and be as outgoing as possible (not hard for her at all) and make some memories!" He shared that she did not meet any special guy on the tour but I do know she met some great people.

Ethan and Vanessa kept in touch with some friends the summer after the youth tour but after that they didn't keep in contact as much. "We still are friends with a few of our closer youth tour friends on Facebook and it is nice to keep tabs on how they are doing," said Ethan and Vanessa. "One of our friends from the youth tour went to college in the Fargo/Moorhead area with us, Concordia

College, and we saw her a few times around Fargo and it was fun to catch up!" they added.

After the June 2012 Washington Youth Tour, Ethan and Vanessa started dating that fall. "She lived about 3 hours away from me so we saw each other once or twice a month that first year, doing our best to pull off a long-distance relationship," said Ethan.

They explained, "Our long-distance relationship lasted from the summer of 2012 to fall of 2013 when we started at North Dakota State University (NDSU). We both lived in the "pharmacy community" dorms freshman year and there was a flight of stairs separating our dorm rooms. We proceeded to make the same friends and meet a great network of pharmacy people, a few of which are in the same class as us and will graduate with us in 2019."

Ethan added, "When we met in D.C. we had both expressed that we wanted to go to NDSU for pharmacy. Sure enough, 5 years later, we are in our P3 year (3rd year of pharmacy program), set to graduate in the spring of 2019 with Doctorate of Pharmacy Degrees from NDSU." Both Ethan and Vanessa currently work part-time pharmacy jobs in Fargo while attending school.

Ethan and Vanessa are the only married couple in their pharmacy class of around 80 students. They shared, "Once we graduate, we both are interested in working in rural Minnesota, preferably northern Minnesota because we love the lakes, trees, and golf courses."

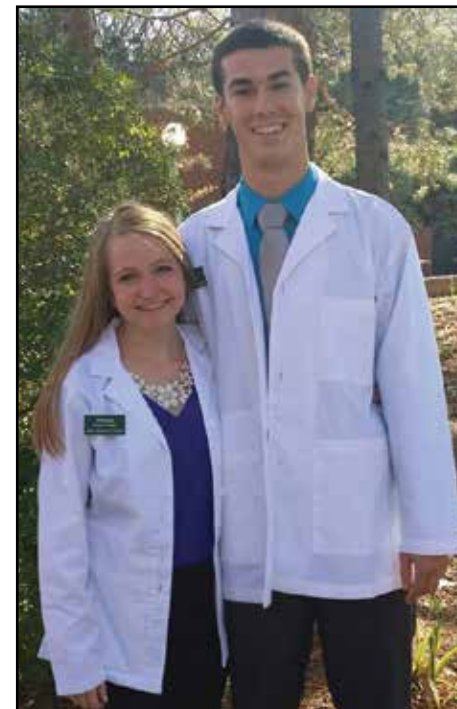
"We both chose a career in pharmacy because we wanted to go into health care and have a positive impact in the world and our communities," said Ethan.

Vanessa shared, "I had experiences with the health care system when one of my younger sisters had many brain surgeries and medical ups and downs throughout her childhood. I witnessed first-hand how health care practitioners who truly care can make such a difference in people's lives. I wanted to be able to help others the

same way those great medical professionals helped my sister." She added, "I have always loved people, and the opportunity I saw to better my community through practicing community pharmacy was too great to not pursue."

Ethan and Vanessa got engaged on August 14th, 2016 and got married July 1st, 2017. Their wedding was large, with 350 people in attendance. The car that brought them to the reception from the church was the same car that they took to Vanessa's prom their senior year - a '52 Chevy Deluxe.

"None of the D.C group was in attendance at the wedding, but multiple people from our Washington D.C. tour messaged us and said how cool it was and congratulations," said Ethan and Vanessa.



Ryberg's are both on track to graduate from NDSU with Doctorate of Pharmacy degrees in 2019.

Vanessa and Ethan closed by saying, "We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Washington D.C. Tour and both loved the experience. Meeting each other on the tour was an added benefit."