

# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

March 2017

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

## Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met January 26 and February 9 to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 1, 2, and 3. The Nominating Committee is required to select two candidates to be on the ballot for each district. Additional candidates are only added to the ballot when a member presents a petition to the cooperative that is signed by at least 20 members from their district. Nomination by Petition information is on page 3.

The persons on the ballot for this year's election are:

**District 1:** Oria Brinkmeier and Roger Venske

**District 2:** Joe Griebie and Tanya Vacek

**District 3:** Jonathan Lemke and David Resch

*See director profiles on page 8.*

**Join your friends and neighbors  
at the MCPA Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, April 11**

**Doors open 8:30 a.m.**

**Old Time Music by Harvey Becker,  
Jerry Kahle, & Lowell Schubert  
8:45 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.**

**Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.**

**Prize drawings at close of meeting.  
Grand prize \$300 electric bill credit.**

**Roast beef meal to follow meeting.**

## Straight Talk — Local Democracy

McLeod Co-op Power is supportive of clean energy production in our service territory and in Minnesota. We do this locally through Community Solar and through helping our members who want to interconnect their own solar or wind resources to successfully navigate the State of Minnesota requirements for distributed generation (DG) interconnection. Our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), does this by steadily increasing the portion of our energy that comes from renewable sources.

GRE provides our electricity from a diverse, balanced and cost effective portfolio of resources that includes hydro, wind, solar, biomass, natural gas, coal and other sources of energy. Approximately 17% of the energy they provide to McLeod Co-op Power is renewable energy. GRE works on our behalf to meet the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard of 25% of retail energy sales which in 2025 must come from renewable sources. Through recent agreements they have already secured an additional 300 MW of wind resources to meet the 20% energy requirement in 2020 and exceed the state's requirements for 2025.

It is important to McLeod Co-op Power that GRE secures these renewable resources for us, as the solar and wind DG systems owned by our members do not count towards meeting Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard. It is unfortunate that renewable contributions from Co-op members who installed wind turbines or solar arrays over the past 10 years were unable to help the Co-op meet its mandatory renewable energy requirements. This is because the Renewable Energy Credits or RECs



**by Carrie L. Buckley  
General Manager**

are still owned by the members, and therefore, they do not qualify towards helping the Co-op meet renewable generation requirements.

In 2015, McLeod Co-op Power completed a 41 kW community solar array after members expressed significant interest in community solar on the 2014 member survey. This made solar available to members who did not have the finances for a big array of their own, who did not have the space in their yard, or who did not want

the responsibility of maintaining their own DG system. Some of the Co-op's board members have leased panels in the community solar array and are very interested in promoting renewables whenever feasible. The Co-op structured the community solar array so that the members who participate pay the cost to own and operate the system without any subsidization from members who are not participating.

The Co-op is willing to construct an additional community solar array if enough members want to participate. Several members have signed up for the next community solar project but many more commitments are needed before approval for construction can be considered.

McLeod Co-op Power also spends an extensive amount of time each year working with members who are interested in connecting a DG system (under 40 kW in capacity) to the Co-op's distribution lines. We provide this expertise to support our members in their renewable efforts and to keep it safe for the member and the Co-op. The State of

Minnesota has a very comprehensive step-by-step process for interconnection. The Co-op staff educates members on these requirements, making certain all required documents, testing, and safety standards have been completed before the DG system can interconnect to the grid and sell excess power back to the Co-op.

Renewable energy can be intermittent. The Co-op considers it our mission to provide all members, including those with DG systems, with any electricity they need when their wind or solar system is not producing enough to meet 100% of their power needs. The member pays the same System Delivery Charge and retail rate per kWh for any power they purchase. Any excess electricity produced by their DG system that cannot be used by the member is sold to the Co-op at the average retail rate, according to Minnesota Law. The average retail rate is about two times higher than the wholesale rate the Co-op pays for energy, so kWhs from our DG resources is the most expensive energy the Co-op buys. When considering costs alone, large-scale solar and wind purchased from GRE is a more economical way for the Co-op to provide members with clean power.

### Satisfying the wishes of the membership

Every other year, the Co-op sends a survey to all of its members, giving them the opportunity to tell the Co-op how it wants things done. In 2014, 65% of MCPA members thought we should generate more energy from solar or wind. However, 85% of members said they were not willing to pay more per kWh for energy generated from solar or wind. Only 15% were willing to pay more for

*Continued on page 2*



**McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, April 14.**  
The Cooperative has a 24 hour payment drop box at the entry to the Glencoe office.

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

## Straight Talk - Local Democracy

by *Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager*  
*Continued from page 1*

renewable kilowatts. In 2016, members reinforced this opinion by 84% not being willing to pay more for energy generated from solar or wind.

The McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors listens to its members and takes their input very seriously. Building a Community Solar Array is one example of the board giving members the renewable energy they wanted without any cost increases to non-participating members.

Sometimes, different groups of members want conflicting actions. This is when the board must weigh the various considerations and do what is best for the Co-op as a whole. The board has the unpopular job of sometimes raising rates or applying fees that affect a few members to keep things fair and equitable for the entire membership. One example of this is the DG Grid Access fee for new distributed generation loads.

It has been disheartening to hear special interest groups incorrectly state that the Co-ops are applying a DG Grid Access fee to offset lost sales. That is just not the case. Not all of the fixed costs to build, operate, and maintain the distribution system are included in the monthly System Delivery Fee. A portion of the Co-op's fixed costs are collected through the monthly kWh Energy Charge. It is this portion of fixed costs that are not being recovered when a member supplies some of their own energy needs while remaining connected to and dependent upon the grid. The DG Grid Access fee makes sure that all members, including those with their own generation, are charged appropriately for use of the Co-op's distribution grid.

## Local Democratic Control being addressed in Minnesota Legislature

The Co-op's locally-elected democratically-controlled boards know their membership better than anyone else and should continue to make decisions for their organizations. Unfortunately, this has not been happening. We have seen a regulatory process, originally put in place for investor-owned utilities, which threatens the self-sufficiency and self-regulation of our electric Co-op. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the state appointed regulator of investor-owned utilities, can impose additional regulation on co-ops now regulated by their member-elected boards of directors. This is a costly and duplicative regulatory process.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association is promoting a bill (Local Democracy — House bill #234 and Senate bill #141) that would ensure your local elected cooperative directors continue to have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the cooperative members that elected them, and not by appointed government officials.

Please feel free to let your state legislators know that you, as a member of McLeod Co-op Power, want the Co-op to continue to be controlled by the membership and not by some state agency. And a message to the Governor Dayton, asking for his support of this bill as well, would be greatly appreciated. Below you will find the contact information for the legislators in our Co-op's service area.

I would like to thank all of our members who have shared their input with us. Whether it is your comments on the biennial survey, talking to your director, or calling to chat with me, your opinions are always welcomed.

Sincerely, Carrie



**2017 LIGNITE EDUCATION SEMINAR**  
June 12-15 BISMARCK, ND  
APPLY @ [WWW.LIGNITE.COM/TEACHERS](http://WWW.LIGNITE.COM/TEACHERS)

## Attention teachers: Learn about lignite and get graduate credits

Registration is open for the Lignite Energy Council's annual Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment. The four-day seminar gives elementary, middle and high school teachers a first-hand look at North Dakota's fifth largest industry, lignite mining and related energy production. The seminar will be held June 12-15, at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence in Bismarck, N.D.

The seminar provides instruction on these topics and more: history, geology, land reclamation, environmental protection, economics of the lignite industry, the need for more workers, energy conservation, and transmission. Besides the classroom instruction and the tours, teachers will take home handouts, videos, coal samples and activities that can be used in the classroom. Teachers who attend and complete a lesson plan can choose from one of three North Dakota institutions from which to receive two semester graduate credits: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University or Minot State University.

The seminar is furnished at NO COST to teachers, however, a \$60 deposit is required to hold your spot and it is refunded the first day of the seminar. You may apply by visiting [www.lignite.com/teachers](http://www.lignite.com/teachers). Applications are accepted until the class is full or April 15, 2017, whichever comes first.

## Legislators representing MCPA service area

District	State Representative	e-mail	Phone
18B	Glenn Gruenhagen	rep.glenn.gruenhagen@house.mn	800-341-0510
17A	Tim Miller	rep.tim.miller@house.mn	651-296-4228
47A	Jim Nash	rep.jim.nash@house.mn	651-296-4282
18A	Dean Urdahl	rep.dean.urdahl@house.mn	800-920-5861
District	State Senator	e-mail	Phone
18	Scott Newman	sen.scott.newman@senate.mn	651-296-4131
47	Scott Jensen	sen.scott.jensen@senate.mn	651-296-4837
17	Andrew Lang	sen.andrew.lang@senate.mn	651-296-4918

*Photos of senators, their committee assignments, and a direct link to their e-mail can be found at [www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn) or [www.senate.mn](http://www.senate.mn).*

### Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

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

**District 6**  
Gary Burdorf, **Arlington**

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

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

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

### McLeod Cooperative Power News

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1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk  
General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley

The McLeod Cooperative Power News is the official member publication of McLeod Coop Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events.

All member story ideas and comments are welcome.  
Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
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**24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685**  
**Fax: 320-864-4850**  
**Web site: [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)**

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

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

## Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 23

Members residing in Districts 1, 2, & 3 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 23, 2017. Members in voting districts will also receive a director candidate profile sheet, notice of annual meeting, and a registration/lunch ticket. If you choose to return your ballot by mail please do not include any payments in your voting envelope. Ballots returned by mail must be received in our office before April 11, 2017.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 23.



## Nominating Committee prepared slate of director candidates for 2017

Members of the Nominating Committee from Districts 1, 2, and 3 met on January 26 and February 9 to select candidates to run for director elections in their respective districts. Serving on this year's nominating committee were:

**Standing (l to r) Charles Mathews, Kevin Post, Lyle Eiden and Mavis Weber and seated (l to r) Francis Burch, Wilbert Becker, Mark R. Smith and Larry Kassulker.**



## Co-op's community solar could expand with sufficient interest from members

Currently MCPA members have a Community Solar Garden with 100 solar panels which was completed in 2015. The Co-op has space within the original array fence to construct one additional 50-panel array. We are currently taking reservations from members interested in participating in the next community solar array. When we get sufficient interest to do another 50 solar panels, we will seek approval for construction. Any member with interest in community solar may contact the Co-op for details.

## McLeod Cooperative Power Association ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE Hutchinson Event Center, April 11, 2017

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center.....	8:30 A.M.
Old-time Music by Harvey Becker, Jerry Kahle, & Lowell Schubert.....	8:45 - 9:50 A.M.
Meeting Called to Order .....	10:00 A.M.
Invocation .....	Roger Karstens, Director
Pledge of Allegiance .....	All
Welcome .....	Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager
Establish a Quorum .....	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting.....	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting .....	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Dist 1, 2, & 3.....	Keith Peterson, President
Introduction of Directors in Districts 4-9.....	Keith Peterson, President
Financial Report.....	Susan Noyes, Manager of Finance
Closing of Ballots.....	Keith Peterson, President
Washington D.C. Youth Tour Attendee .....	Elli Gifferson
Manager's Report.....	Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager
Guest Speaker .....	David Saggau, Great River Energy CEO
Announcement of Operation Round Up Recipients ....	Operation Round Up Trust Board
Introduction of Nominating Committee .....	Keith Peterson, President
Election Report .....	Nominating Committee Chairman
Unfinished Business.....	Keith Peterson, President
New Business.....	Keith Peterson, President
Adjournment	
Table Prayer .....	Gary Burdorf, Director
Drawing for Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize (\$300 electric bill credit) ...	Sue Pawelk
Lunch to follow meeting .....	Catered by Chef Craig Catering



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

## Submit Nomination by petition for director candidacy by March 17

Cooperative members residing in Districts 1, 2, or 3 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2017 director election in their district. To have another name, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, on the ballot, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the Cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Petition forms are available from the Co-op. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 17, 2017.

The Cooperative secretary shall post at the Cooperative office the names of additional nominations and also persons selected by the nominating committee.

### District 1 includes:

Hollywood Township in Carver County, Winsted Township in McLeod County, and Victor, Woodland and Franklin Townships in Wright County.

### District 2 includes:

Hassen Valley, Sumter, and Rich Valley Townships in McLeod County.

### District 3 includes:

Bergen, Helen, and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County.

# New UFC fertilizer plant ready for spring field work

A new \$20 million state-of-the-art fertilizer plant owned by United Farmers Cooperative (UFC) will open this month, just in time to supply dry and liquid fertilizer to area farmers, other co-ops, and ag businesses throughout the region.

"This plant will bring farmers accessibility to product when they need it," said Jay Walterman, Vice-President of Special Products for UFC.

All the farmers in this region need fertilizer during a two-week window of time. Making sure there is an adequate supply of liquid and dry fertilizer when everyone needs them is a challenge. If the rivers coming into Minnesota were still frozen they couldn't get fertilizer in by barge and with previously limited storage capacity it was difficult to stockpile enough fertilizer product to meet demand during spring field work. This new facility allows UFC to get fertilizer delivered by rail and unloaded off the rails at a high capacity of 1,200 ton per hour.

"We can unload 110 cars of potash in about ten hours," explained Aaron Schwab, Crop Nutrition Operations Manager.



The train car pit can hold 60 ton of product at one time. All three train car hoppers unload at once and it takes only 5-6 minutes to unload an entire rail car.

Each rail car carries the equivalent of four semi truck loads. That means one trainload gives UFC the equivalent of 440 semi loads of product in ten hours. The new facility has a 48-foot unloading pit that holds 60 ton of product at one time, so all three hoppers of a train car get unloaded at one time. It takes 5-6 minutes to unload one rail car at the new facility.

The new UFC plant can store 52,800 ton of dry product. That is significantly more than the 38,000 ton capacity at their Winthrop plant.



This potash bin was currently empty and awaiting product. The numbered walls and columns allow employees to calculate remaining inventory.



The plant is completely automated. Crop Nutrition Operations Manager Aaron Schwab can automatically select a bin for a train car's contents to download into. The touch screen allows the office to view the same information as the receiving area.

"This is one of the largest inland fertilizer plants in the nation," said Walterman. "There are some bigger on the east or west coast," he added.

UFC's elevator and fertilizer plant share a 37-acre campus and a 8,100 foot circuit rail tracks that can accommodate 110-car trains. The elevator ships out grain and the fertilizer plant has product shipped in by rail including potash from Canada, urea (nitrogen) from the ports and US production plants and phosphorus from mines and production plants in the southern US. The farmers need a mix of these.

UFC's location provides access to both east and west coast ports via Twin Cities & Western railroad (TC&W) connecting them with major rail carriers. TC&W brings in a train and UFC employees are certified to operate engines on UFC tracks. It takes 4-6 employees to unload a train, so when a train comes in UFC employees shift over from other areas to help unload it quickly.

Unique to this plant is the capacity to load out at 500 ton per hour.

It also has a high intensity mixer (HIM) blender used to mix batches of fertilizer. "It is the latest technology in precision blending, said Schwab, "as it mixes more thoroughly and faster by using a dual-shaft paddle mixer with offset paddles instead of a vertical mixer." Schwab explained that they can mix pre-emergence herbicide liquid into a batch of fertilizer in 30 seconds. The HIM blender can also add nitrogen stabilizer to products in the fall to prevent nitrogen loss. The UFC facility also has 2.5 million gallons of liquid fertilizer storage, 100,000 gallons of chemical storage, three load out lanes, and a 24-hour liquid fertilizer load out for the late-night farmers.

The merger of Brownton Co-op Ag Center and UFC made the liquid fertilizer plant possible. They utilize the rail spur and Brownton Co-op Ag Center facilities for mixing of the liquid fertilizer, liquid storage, and the office.

"This UFC facility is 100% owned by the members of UFC," explained Walterman. "Our primary focus is to sell to our customers, however, some of the space will be leased to other co-ops and agribusinesses like CHS and Mosaic." It is similar to a farmer storing grain at an elevator. UFC controls use of its facility and gets paid storage and handling by any entity leasing bin space.

"We are helping all the local farmers even if they don't get product directly from UFC," said Schwab.



The load-out bay is beneath the mixer tower. Trucks pull into the bay to be loaded with dry fertilizer. The new automated system allows trucks to punch in their order number on a keypad while waiting in line to enter, so their order is ready to go when they get into the bay.

This new fertilizer plant will be able to serve the US Highway 212 corridor from the west to the eastern areas of Waconia-Hamburg and northern territory. UFC's fertilizer plant in Winthrop will service the MN Highway 19 corridor and southern territory.

Planning for this plant had been in the works for 7-8 years. UFC spent years researching the region to determine how many acres could be served out of the plant and determining where it should be built. Actual construction has been going on for just over a year at the site west of Brownton on Hwy. 15.



After a train car is unloaded, this conveyor transports up to 1200 tons of product per hour from 23 feet below ground up to the proper swing bin for storage. Old conveyors could only carry 50 tons per hour.

Before construction could begin the Co-op had to bury a new circuit of conductor to the elevator and remove the existing cable from the area where the loading pit for the dry plant needed to be located. Rail access to the area was shut down for one month while the contractors removed a section of the railroad track loop shared with the elevator, built the new unloading pit and put the section of track back in place. It was too wet to bring in a crane for placement of the 40-ton steel piece used in the train dump pit, so the project excavation contractor lowered it into place using their excavator. Site excavation included a pond to dewater the areas where buildings needed to be constructed.

More than 10,500 yards of concrete and 3.4 million pounds of rebar steel in the concrete was used to construct the dry fertilizer building. The Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture monitored every move of construction at the entire site to make sure it met Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements for things like water stops, double-piping, and dike containment. The staff at UFC said that they went farther than required to meet future specs and regulations, guaranteeing a very safe facility now and in the future. Regular training is also done with Brownton and other area fire departments at the plant.



The entire facility utilizes LED high efficiency lighting. Sealed, waterproof 240 watt high bay overhead fixtures were used in this bin corridor. The LED fixtures qualified for an energy grant from the Cooperative.

All of the lighting in the building utilizes high-efficiency LED fixtures. An energy grant from the Co-op was able to offset a small part of the lighting cost. Energy grants for high efficiency lighting and other projects are available to area farms and businesses. Call the Co-op for specific details on the grants and to find out if you qualify.

The new fertilizer plant was scheduled to start loading out product March 1, in plenty of time for farmers to get fields ready for spring planting.

## Industry News

### Minnesota Soybean Processors to pursue ND soybean processing plant at Spiritwood

Gov. Doug Burgum and leaders of Minnesota Soybean Processors (MnSP) and its subsidiary North Dakota Soybean Processors (NDSP) announced today that MnSP is taking steps toward construction of a \$240 million soybean processing plant – the first of its kind in North Dakota – at Spiritwood, N.D.

The plant would be an integrated soybean crush facility and refinery, crushing 125,000 bushels of soybeans per day. It would produce soybean meal, refined, bleached and deodorized soybean oil and biodiesel.

MnSP, a membership cooperative that owns and operates a soybean crush facility and biodiesel operation in Brewster, Minn., has selected a site on 150 acres near Spiritwood. The co-op would move forward with construction following further due diligence, necessary approvals and a successful engineering study.

The plant would utilize steam from the nearby Spiritwood Station, a coal-fired power plant operated by Great River Energy.

~Jamestown Sun

### Rollout of Chevy Bolt may mark turning point for the electric car market

The Chevrolet Bolt EV, which is now hitting the market, could be the first of a new wave of game-changing electric vehicles. Its longer range and lower price could attract new buyers to the electric car market, but there's uncertainty over whether federal tax incentives will continue and whether California will be allowed to keep tougher emissions rules under President Trump.

GM is marketing the Bolt as a small crossover. It has the footprint of a sub-compact and the interior space of a standard car. More important is its range of 238 miles and price tag of \$30,000, after the \$7,500 federal tax credit offered on electric vehicles.

Currently, the only other all-electric cars for sale with that kind of range are Teslas, which cost upwards of \$70,000.

"In all our research, we've talked to consumers, and really that 200-mile EV range at the affordable price was kind of the tipping point for them to really consider this a mainstream vehicle, so we went after that," said Darin Gesse, Product Manager for Chevrolet Electric Vehicles.

GM is rolling out the Bolt in phases: It's currently available in California, Oregon, Maryland, Virginia and Massachusetts, and will be in all 50 states by the fall.

~NPR

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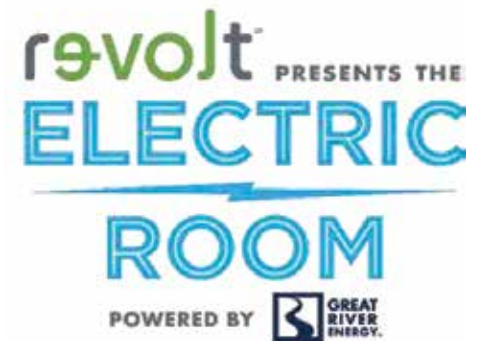
## January Outage Summary & February Large Outage

January had 28 outages. Seven were scheduled outages for transformer or other equipment changeouts. The largest regular outage affected 53 accounts on Sunday, January 15 at 10:55 a.m. in Hollywood Township in Carver County. Members were without power for one hour and 55 minutes due to an oil circuit recloser failure. The second largest outage was south of Glencoe on Tuesday, January 10 about 5:14 p.m. A line fuse tripped for an unknown reason. It was reset and power was restored. Total outage time was about 1 hour and 39 minutes and it affected 30 members.

Members in McLeod and Sibley Counties may be interested in a more recent outage on Sunday, February 19 about 3:00 a.m. a truck clipped off a guy wire causing the top of the transmission pole to snap off and fall onto the Co-op's under-built distribution 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. A few MCPA members served off of the damaged distribution line were off for four hours. Total consumers affected by these outages was 2,947. A dozen members were out Sunday while further repairs were made.

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.



## Back in 2017 — the Electric Room

Electric vehicles, with zero emission, are the greenest vehicles in the market and the Twin Cities Auto Show is featuring this technology in the Electric Room. Formerly called the Green Room, the Electric Room will feature the latest technology in electric and hybrid vehicles.

This is the place to check out the growing list of cars powered by electricity!

The Twin Cities Auto Show is also pleased to announce that Great River Energy has signed as the title sponsor for the 2017 Electric Room.

The electricity that powers your electric vehicle can come from many sources. Consumers are still learning about their options to power electric vehicles and Great River Energy will be onsite to help educate and answer questions.

Featured in the room will be Revolt, a first-of-its kind program that allows Great River Energy cooperative members to upgrade the electricity used to fuel their vehicles to wind energy, at no additional cost.

Drive Electric Minnesota will also be in the Electric room to answer questions about charging stations throughout the Midwest and electric vehicle owners will be onsite to answer questions about their experience owning an electric vehicle.

The Electric is sponsored by Great River Energy and the main project partners for The Revolt Electric Room are MADA, Great River Energy, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, PlugInConnect, MN PEV Owners' Circle and Fresh Energy.

### See the latest makes and models of electric vehicles and also check out:

- The latest in cutting edge technology with electric charging
- Chat with local electric vehicle owners
- Check out our electric-powered robot and sit down for a conversation. Her technology and capabilities will surprise you! EEVIE will be at the show select hours each day.
- How to power your electric vehicle with 100% renewable energy through the groundbreaking Revolt program made possible through Great River Energy and their 28 member-owning electric cooperatives.



### Twin Cities Auto Show 2017 March 11-19

Minneapolis Convention Center  
1301 South Second Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

**Sat. March 11; 10am-10pm**

**Sun. March 12; 10am-7pm**

**Mon. March 13; 4pm-10pm**

**Tues. March 14; 4pm-10pm**

**Wed. March 15; 10am-10pm**

**Thurs. March 16; 4pm-10pm**

**Fri. March 17; 10am-10pm**

**Sat. March 18; 10am-10pm**

**Sun. March 19; 10am-7pm**

Questions about the show? Please email [info@twincitiesautoshow.com](mailto:info@twincitiesautoshow.com) or call 651-789-2952.

Regular ticket prices are \$12 adults or \$6 kids. Advance sale adult pickets \$10 and more info on the web at [TwinCitiesAutoShow.com](http://TwinCitiesAutoShow.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads  
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Please check  
ad category

- Giveaway
- For Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted

#### For Sale

- Arctic Cat purple powerlube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- 5000lb Yale fork lift. 320-485-3726
- Schwartz snow bucket. 320-485-3726
- 3 point 7ft snow blower. 320-485-3726
- 1958 Ford tandem truck. 320-583-9318 or 320-582-1534
- 6ft Waynes tile plow. 320-583-9318 or 320-582-1534
- Detroit 353 motor w/radiator. 320-583-9318 or 320-582-1534
- Home grown garlic. 320-587-4678

#### For Sale Farm

- JD 6600 combine 4 row corn head, 20ft bean head. 320-587-2280 or 320-583-8927
- Round hay bales. 320-485-3726

#### Wanted

- Looking for land to rent for 2017 and beyond. 320-583-9343
- Baby calves. 507-276-5834.

*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.*

## The Storage Water Heating Program saves members money in multiple ways

Persons in Home	Water Heater Avg kWh/Mo	Uncontrolled Elec	Water Storage	Savings/Mo
2	300	\$ 37.00/month	\$ 17.64/month	\$ 19.86
3	450	\$ 56.25/month	\$ 26.46/month	\$ 29.79
4	600	\$ 75.00/month	\$ 35.28/month	\$ 39.72
5	750	\$ 93.75/month	\$ 44.10/month	\$ 49.65

An average family using 450 kWh per month to heat water currently pays \$56.25 per month to supply their hot water needs if their water heater is not on the Co-op's storage strategy. After joining the Hot Water Storage Program, that same family using 450 kWh, is now down to paying only \$26.46 per month. That means a savings of over \$29.79 a month or \$357.48 a year. Exact usage and savings will vary depending upon number of persons in the family and their hot water usage habits.

purchasing a larger water heater. Although most installations use one 85 or 105 gallon Marathon water heater, you can also utilize two standard size tanks or other high efficiency brands to participate. Call the Energy Management Specialists at 1-800-494-6272. They will answer all of your questions, help determine the right size of water heater for your family, and they can assist you with delivery of the water heater or load control equipment.



Each member that participates in the Storage Water Heating Program also helps reduce the wholesale demand and energy charges paid by McLeod Co-op Power. Storage loads use energy at night when there is excess power available and they are not operating during peak daytime hours. This helps maintain lower rates for everyone.

Storage water heating also plays a role in improving energy efficiency and utilizing the energy produced by wind. Your water heater is able to operate like a battery. It stores the energy that wind turbines put on the grid at night in the form of hot water, which the member can use all day. By storing energy when it's available and then using it when it is needed, is increasing the overall efficiency of our energy resources.

A majority of the 1,342 MCPA households that participate in the Storage Water Heating Program, also take advantage of cooling their home with off-peak electric rates via the Co-op's Cycled Cooling Program. These members get more than a 50% discount on summer kilowatt-hours purchased for cooling their home with a heat pump or central air conditioner by letting the Co-op cycle their cooling unit during peak hours on the hottest summer days.

For any member that is not already saving money on the Storage Water Heating program, the Co-op is offering a \$400 rebate when you join the program. This can help offset the cost of your electrician or plumber, or

## McLeod Co-op Power joins TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® Alliance

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

As of January 1, 2017 McLeod Co-op power has rejoined the family of Touchstone Energy® cooperatives. It has been about a decade since McLeod Co-op Power participated in this alliance. You have seen, or soon you will, a new graphic symbol accompanying the name and logo of McLeod Co-op Power on utility bucket trucks, your power bill, the headquarters located in Glencoe. Touchstone Energy® is a nationwide brand and marketing effort that identifies cooperative utilities providing superior customer service while maintaining a strong local presence.

General Manager Carrie L. Buckley said, "The Touchstone Energy® brand will take McLeod Co-op Power and its 5,700 + members into the future as the electric utility industry changes." More than 740 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day.

"It's much more than a graphic addition to our name and logo. It's a commitment to our members, both households and businesses, that they can count on us, as a locally based and controlled utility to deliver them reliable, affordable energy services and to be an advocate for their energy and community needs," she said.

"We believe our local presence is one of our strongest assets, and our affiliation with Touchstone Energy® will remind our members who we are and what we stand for."

Manager Buckley said electric cooperatives across the United States launched the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives brand to represent the advantages of locally owned and controlled electric service, which is rooted in the direct link that electric cooperatives like McLeod Co-op Power have with their members.

"The dictionary definition of touchstone is a test of genuineness. Touchstone Energy® symbolizes everything that electric cooperatives represent today: electric power, human connections, and the strength of co-op's commitment to the communities and the members they serve," she explained.

By pooling resources through the brand with other cooperative utilities, McLeod Co-op Power will be able to provide consumer information and awareness of their member-focused services as the electric utility industry evolves, according to Buckley.

"We'll help our members cut through all the clutter," she said. "We'll be here for our members for the long haul. If it's accountability, service and commitment to community you want, look no further than McLeod Co-op Power."

## Power Line Worker Scholarship Offered

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2017-18 school term, may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award one \$500 scholarship for a local student.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties, and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply. Applications and informative career brochures are available on the Co-op website [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) or by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 15, 2017.



# Profiles of Director Candidates for District 1, 2, & 3

The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each district to appear on the ballot. Below are the candidates they have selected for Districts 1, 2, & 3.

## District 1 includes:

Hollywood Township in Carver County, Winsted Township in McLeod County, and Victor, Woodland, and Franklin Townships in Wright County.



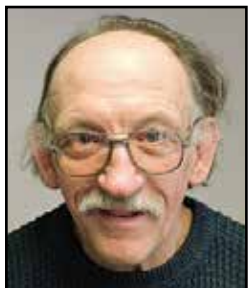
### Oria Brinkmeier

Oria is the incumbent director in District 1. He grew up on a farm in Winsted Township. Upon retiring from teaching in 1990, Oria and his wife Myrna moved back to the family farm between

Winsted and Lester Prairie. Since his wife passed away in 2003 he has rented out his land but has maintained a cow/calf operation. Oria is a graduate of Lester Prairie High School and Concordia College. After serving in the U.S. Army, Oria also attended the University of Minnesota. For most of his life Oria was a teacher. He taught junior high and high school and was later a college instructor.

Oria has three grown children who live in the Twin Cities. Having fewer family obligations, he devotes his time to being a serious board member. He is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie.

Oria would like to see the Cooperative keep its business locally based. He believes a small electric co-op must be very frugal in spending its resources and must keep abreast of conditions in a quickly changing electrical industry. Oria thinks his contribution to the board has been to use thoughtful analysis and common sense when helping to make decisions.



### Roger Venske

Roger was born in Watertown and raised in Carver County. He graduated from Watertown High School. He is the third generation of his family being served by McLeod Co-op Power.

Roger has been farming and milking cows for 42 years. He got started on his grandpa's farm and the last 38 years he has farmed in Winsted Township in McLeod County. He milks 20 cows and grows corn, beans, and alfalfa.

Roger and his wife Roberta have been married for 38 years. They built a new house in 2007 after they had a fire in their old house. In their new home they utilize the off-peak programs for heating with an air source heat pump and in-floor heat in the basement and off-peak water heating.

Roger said he would like to be elected to learn more about how the Co-op works and operates.

## District 2 includes:

Hassan Valley, Sumter, and Rich Valley Townships in McLeod County.



### Joe Griebie

Joe is the incumbent director for District 2. He has lived in Sumter Township and been actively involved in farming for 43 years. He raised corn, soybeans and kidney beans until retiring in December of 2016. Joe and his wife Sheila have three adult children (Ashley, Allison, and Adam) and six grandchildren. His son Adam, who has farmed with Joe since 2011, is now managing the farm. Sheila also retired after 26 years at the Brownton Co-op Ag Center.

Joe is a graduate of Hutchinson High School. He earned a B.S. in Math from Augustana College and received his teaching credits from Gustavus Adolphus College. He worked as a substitute teacher for 13 years in addition to his farming career.

Joe served on the McLeod West School Board for nine years. He is a member of and past president of the Brownton Rod and Gun Club. He is also a 25-year member of the Ducks Unlimited committee. Joe is a member of and past president of the Brownton Lions and also served as the Lions treasurer for 10 years. He recently retired as Sumter Township Board Chairman after serving the township for 15 years. He also was a Snowmobile Safety Instructor for 20 years. Joe is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson.

Joe shared, "I have enjoyed the rewards and challenges of my first term on the MCPA Board." He added, "It is a pleasure working with the other board members, management and employees. I appreciate and I am thankful for the support received from District 2 members. Please feel free to contact me any time (320-779-1101) with any concerns or comments."



### Tanya Vacek

Tanya Vacek has worked in the transportation industry for over 25 years. She currently works for a small family-owned trucking company in Hutchinson. Over the years she has worked with manifesting loads, dispatching, operations, customer service, billing, resolving OS&D issues, and as a freight broker.

Tanya attended Hutchinson High School and then continued her education at St. Cloud Business School (Rasmussen) for Accounting and Business Management. She has also continued her education through a variety of online classes.

Tanya and her husband Dave took over the family farmstead in Hassan Valley Township in 1998. They rent out their land to a local dairy farm. Her husband Dave is employed at 3M and they have been married 23 years. Their son Brandon is currently in his second year of college at Bemidji State University.

Over the years Tanya has been involved in various Hutchinson area organizations. When their son was little, she was involved in PTO at school, helping to organize annual family night, the school supply drive and other fundraisers. She has also been involved in her church with youth programs, teaching Sunday School, and helping with parish health ministry.

Tanya is an avid quilter, crafter, and soap maker. She loves a good book or a game night with family and friends, and enjoys entertaining and organizing large group activities.

As to why Tanya would like to serve on the MCPA board, she said, "I would like to get more involved in our area's renewable energy programs, preserving and investing in our future generations."

## District 3 includes:

Bergen, Helen, and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County.



### Jonathan Lemke

Jon and Mary have lived in Glencoe Township since 1990. Jon works for Lemke Welding, a family run business since 1928, in rural Glencoe. Mary works for Thomas H. Moore Companies in Shakopee as their Vice President of Finance. Jon and Mary also farm west of Glencoe growing cash crops on 400 acres.

Jon and Mary have three children: Christopher, 20, a sophomore attending Augsburg College double majoring in Biology and Chemistry; Paul, 17, a junior in high school attending Glencoe-Silver Lake; and Jacqueline, 12, a 6th grader attending First Lutheran Schools in Glencoe.

Jon is a graduate of Glencoe High School, and has a bachelor's degree from Mankato State University in Science Education. Jon and his family are active members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe. Both Mary and Jon have served on various boards and committees throughout the Glencoe community. Currently Jon and Mary are enjoying spending most of their free time attending all of their children's activities.

Jon holds the McLeod Coop Power organization and their employee's in high regard and personally feels they have done a tremendous job managing their human and physical resources. Over the years Jon's family business has worked for countless electrical power agencies over the five-state areas. Over the last three decades Jon has been directly involved in the ever-changing climate of the power agencies and feels his experience and background would bring a different perspective to the board.



### David Resch

David and his wife Mary operate an 80-head sheep flock on a 45 acre farm in Helen Township near Glencoe. They have been very active in 4-H and FFA programs, including livestock judging. They especially like following the lambs they have sold to 4-H members and watching the young people show their lambs.

The Reschs enjoy time with their children and grandchildren. Their sons, Nathan and Dan, are both married and living in central Minnesota.

David has had a long career in banking and agricultural business development. He currently serves as vice-president of MidCountry Bank in Hutchinson, managing agricultural loan development and growth. Prior to that he worked over 15 years for the University of Minnesota Extension Service as a County and Regional Extension Director and educator, serving McLeod and many surrounding counties. Prior to that he worked as a bank manager and loan officer and in agricultural education, sales, and management positions.

David is a graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture, with a B.S. in Ag Education and a M.A. in Education. He also has a Financial Management degree from the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking.

He continues to be active in the Minnesota FFA Foundation, McLeod County Corn & Soybean Growers and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

"I believe I can bring a diverse background of financial expertise and work experience to the McLeod Co-op Power Board," said Dave. "I would like to see the Co-op develop new services for our customers while continuing to provide top-notch, economical electrical service."