



# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

November 2017

## Plato parsonage moved to new home in rural New Germany



Former church parsonage was moved just over ten miles from Plato to its new home southeast of New Germany.

It is amazing that a family in Waconia was searching for an old farmhouse to move to their Camden Township property and, at the same time, there was a church in Plato with an empty parsonage that fit the bill as a perfect farmhouse. They found each other on Facebook and on October 11 that house was moved from the City of Plato to its new home southeast of New Germany.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Plato owned a parsonage right next to their church. The home, which was built in 1927, served the congregation and was home to its pastors for many decades. In recent years it had been rented out as the congregation did not have a pastor that needed a parsonage to live in.

Meanwhile, Scott & Stephanie Wambeke and their family were living in Waconia but had land in Camden Township where they dreamed of living in an old farmhouse. They connected with Their House Movers from Clara City, Minnesota and researched the possibility of moving a home to their site. They had found other possible homes to purchase and move, but getting them through the building code permit process was a challenge.

They had almost given up on the plan to find a farmhouse to move and resolved that they would have to build a new house if they could not find an older home that would work. Stephanie made one last attempt to find a suitable farmhouse by placing a request on Facebook. She had a reply very quickly. A member of St.

Paul's UCC church in Plato saw her post and responded that the church had a vacant parsonage.

Looking at the outside of the house, Wambeke's interest increased. After touring the inside, the family fell in love with the home. They met with the church and came to an agreement.

The church surprised them with a

copy of the church council minutes from 1927 when they voted to build the house, complete with maple floors in the kitchen. They even gave the family a photo of the house when it was finished, with a Model T sitting out front.

Unlike the earlier attempts to move houses where the family ran into one

*Parsonage move continued on page 3*

## \$100 per kW storage heating rebate offered through 2017

### Baby it's cold outside

But it's warm and cozy inside! Purchase an electric thermal storage (ETS) heating system between now and December 31, 2017, and you'll get a \$100/kW rebate – that's double our standard \$50/kW rebate. Plus you'll save between 40 – 70% on your home heating costs without sacrificing the comfort and convenience of a traditional heating system. ETS systems take advantage of off-peak electricity, charged at a lower rate since it is consumed when demand is low. In addition, ETS systems don't produce carbon monoxide, so they're safe, and require minimal maintenance.

**SAVE 40 – 70%  
\$100/kW REBATE**

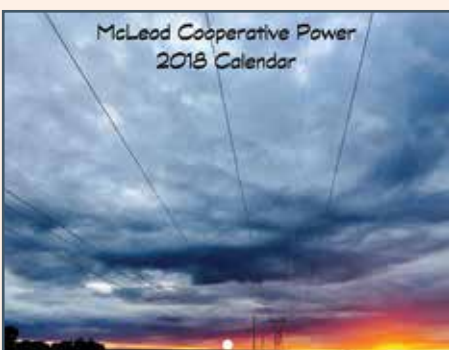
Call the energy experts at the  
Co-op 1-800-494-6272 soon.

ENERGY WISE MN



This is double the regular \$50 per kW rebate for storage furnaces, or room units, or under floor slab heating installations. Anyone contemplating installation of a storage system must act very quickly. This is the largest rebate ever available for storage heating.

## Scenic 2018 calendars available at the Co-op



This year's 2018 scenic calendars are available in the Co-op office.

*Please stop in and pick up a copy. First come, first serve, while supplies last.*

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## Health plan co-op hoping to provide farm families with health coverage offerings

40 Square Cooperative Solutions, a health care cooperative providing Minnesota farm families the control to manage their health care, met with farmers and agribusiness owners in September to share information about joining the cooperative and obtaining health plan coverage through the organization.

Cooperative Network, the Minnesota and Wisconsin state trade association of cooperatives and United Farmers Cooperative (UFC), an agricultural supply cooperative based in Winthrop, Minn., are the founders of 40 Square. In 2009, 40 Square was created and registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State and the founders continued to advocate for new health insurance options in the following years. It is a stand-alone, separate organization from both Cooperative Network and UFC and will be owned by the members it serves. With the departure of multiple insurance carriers in rural Minnesota counties in 2016, the state legislature recognized the need for a new health plan solution for farm families, and 40 Square Cooperative Solutions came to full fruition in 2017.

“Trust, transparency, and ownership are what define 40 Square,” said Jeff Nielsen, President and CEO of UFC. “Being empowered as a cooperative gives rural Minnesotans the ability to govern not only the organization, but how they use their health plan. Our goal for the community meetings was to get information in the hands of farmers who are looking for a competitive health solution that meets their family’s needs.”

“Passage of Cooperative Network-led language to allow for the establishment of an agriculture cooperative health coverage option was one of our top priorities during the 2017 session,” said Cooperative Network Board Chairman, Curt Eischens. “We are grateful to all of our members, lawmakers, administration officials, staff, and other stakeholders who collaborated with us to advance this initiative throughout the entire legislative process.”

For more information visit <http://www.40square.coop>.

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



### Why are electric cooperatives important?

In September, several Board Directors and I had the opportunity to attend our National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Regional meeting in Minneapolis. Over a day and a half we conduct business meetings where resolutions are voted on to guide the national staff on legislative issues common to all electric cooperatives, we learn about new technology through educational sessions, and hear inspirational speakers who motivate us as we come back to our co-ops a bit more energized. For me, this year’s most inspiring messages came from not one of the paid speakers but from the President of NRECA, Phil Carson. Mr. Carson spoke eloquently about the power of co-op nation through inspiring examples of mutual aid to electric co-ops initially devastated by Hurricane Irma and Harvey, which quickly restored power with the help of others. He also spoke to what I believe is the core of electric cooperatives, which is that democratic member control works because of trust.

His own words are much more effective than my summary of his eloquence — as such, in this month’s column, I’m replacing my commentary with his commentary as written in the September RE (Rural Electric) magazine.

#### Phil Carson, President of NRECA

Years ago, I was chatting with a friend and fellow co-op member who believed that the days of utility cooperatives were numbered. He predicted that in 15 years, market forces and innovation would render our business model obsolete and consumer-owned electric cooperatives would give way to a new generation of large, for-profit providers that would

radically alter the utility industry.

Was he right? And if he was right, what might that mean for our communities?

After a good deal of thought, I decided he could be right, but only if we chose that path. There was another option. One where America’s electric cooperatives would continue to thrive as vital civic institutions that bring both energy and opportunity to the communities we serve. Following that path would require our commitment to three goals that are simple yet lofty.

First, and most importantly, we must *adhere to the cooperative principles*.

Much like the U.S. Constitution, the cooperative principles are a remarkably sturdy yet flexible set of ideals. They are the foundation upon which our movement is built, and when we fully embrace the principles in word and deed, our purpose is clear and our path forward much smoother.

A clear purpose is critical, because we must also *commit to adapting to changing times*. That’s goal number two.

Today, we are grappling with rapid advances in technology and seismic shifts in consumer expectations. The challenges we face today are significant, but the truth is that our industry has always been changing.

When I look back on the history of our movement, the times when we’ve shined brightest have been the times when we’ve been leaders and innovators. This proud tradition makes the last of these three goals, *achieve excellence in our operations*, much easier

to accomplish.

When we think of achieving excellence, it’s tempting to assume such an ambitious goal will come with an equally ambitious price tag. But in the co-op family, we know that it’s the little things that often yield the largest results.

Whether it’s a board of directors that holds itself to the highest standards of integrity, employees willing to go the extra mile for our members, or workplace policies that create a culture of safety, professionalism, and respect, the modest investments we make will more than pay for themselves.

That conversation with my friend happened 20 years ago, but it’s stuck with me since. He was wrong, but only because of the path we chose to follow.

We must continue to follow that path as our industry evolves. Sometimes the pace of change will be rapid. Other times it will be slower. But will always be changing.

As long as we adhere to our principles, adapt to changes, and continually strive to achieve excellence, I would bet on electric cooperatives to be a sustaining force across America.

I think these good words from NRECA President Phil Carson are important to remember and practice.

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for allowing us to serve you, our member-owners. Carrie

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Editor: Sue Pawelk  
General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley  
[cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com)

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

#### Office Hours:

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

**Phone: 320-864-3148**

**1-800-494-6272**

**24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685**

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MCPA linemen took down power lines in about 12 locations along the route the house was travelling on October 11 to allow the two-and-a-half story house to pass.

### Parsonage move *continued from page 1*

road block after another, this house seemed like one door after another opened for them: the quick reply to their Facebook request; the smooth negotiations with the church; the house meeting Carver County building codes; a more reasonable cost to move this home; and a short ten-mile journey to its new location.

The family also connected with the parishioners at St. Paul’s. “We made friendships with some awesome people,” said Stephanie. Her husband Scott echoed similar comments, saying, “The guys at the church were great.”

So, on the morning of Wednesday, October 11, the house left Plato for its trip down several rural roads. Along the way, McLeod Co-op Power had about a dozen places where line crews had to take down power lines so the house could move through. Members affected had been notified in advance of the short power outage that would occur as the house moved by. Line crews quickly reconnected the lines as soon as the house had moved past each connection point. Part of the route was through Xcel Energy service area, so they also had crews dropping and reconnecting lines.

After the house reached its location in Camden Township, Scott Wambeke took a ladder and climbed up to inspect inside the house. He was amazed to find that it was in excellent condition. He was more surprised that the flashlights he had left standing on-end on the kitchen counter before the move, were still on the kitchen counter and still balanced on-end.

By the time you are reading this article, the Wambeke family hopes to have the farmhouse set down on their foundation and be ready for occupancy. It will be next door to the original, and possibly historic, log structure on their property. Although it is not currently registered as a historic building, the Wambeke’s have found that the log structure was recorded on maps from 1851. They have been told that it may have been a trading post, and they continue to research that topic. At some point, the log building was added onto and made into a small house.

Scott, Stephanie, and their children (ages 16, 14, and 12) have all been living in the very small 800 square-foot house, with only one bathroom and one bedroom, since July. Their house in Waconia sold and they had to move this summer, even though their farmhouse was not quite ready to go yet.

“It’s been quite an adventure living in the tiny log home,” said Stephanie, “One our children will probably always remember.”

## Minnesota’s first electric school bus begins delivering students to Lakeville Area Public Schools

The first all-electric school bus in Minnesota, operated by Schmitt & Sons, recently began transporting students to and from schools in the Lakeville Area Public Schools.

“This is undeniably the bus of the future, here today,” Bill Forbord, COO of Schmitt & Sons. “We’ve looked at other fuel-alternative school buses but haven’t seen any additional advantages like we have with this bus.”

The bus has excellent safety features, no diesel engine exhaust and provides a smooth, quiet ride since it is powered by an electric motor. It plays musical tones when it approaches a stop to alert students that the bus is approaching. The bus is equipped with five batteries and can go up to 100 miles before it needs a charge, plenty of range since the average school bus route is 66 miles.

“We’re proud to partner with Schmitt & Sons for transportation of our students,” said Andy Sarnow, executive director of Business Services at Lakeville Area Public Schools. “We have worked with Schmitt & Sons for many years, and appreciate the excellent work they do for our students and families. We also appreciate their continued, innovative approaches to student transportation, whether turning an older bus into a mobile, internet-ready classroom outfitted with digital tools and resources we call the Smart Bus to bringing the first electric bus to the Midwest.”

Schmitt & Sons, along with Dakota Electric Association and Great River Energy – Dakota Electric’s wholesale power supplier – have made the bus possible by sharing the extra cost of this new technology. The three companies are using this new bus as an opportunity to promote and



Schmitt & Sons electric bus pulls into the parking lot at Lakeville South High School Oct. 3, 2017. It is the first electric school bus in the Upper Midwest.

educate the public on the value of electric vehicle technology. The goal is to demonstrate electric school bus performance in a cold weather climate and on longer suburban and rural routes. The companies will document the economics of the electric school bus, including overall energy and maintenance cost savings and then calculate the emission reductions.

It is estimated that the electric bus will save Schmitt & Sons about \$12,000 annually on operation and maintenance costs over the cost of

a standard diesel bus. The batteries will be charged overnight on Dakota Electric’s Revolt program, which provides 100 percent renewable wind energy as the power source.

“This collaboration allows us to pilot cutting-edge electric bus technology and lay the foundation for what we expect will be an excellent, energy-efficient school bus option,” said Mike Fosse, vice president of Energy and Member Services for Dakota Electric.



# Inexpensive, efficient heating and cooling are benefits of Co-op membership

David and Mary Behrens were excited to become members of a rural electric cooperative when they built their home near Lester Prairie 13 years ago.

“We had been customers of Xcel in Winsted,” Mary said. “There’s no hometown service or programs they offer.”

Dave, who does on-site medical evaluations of hearing and other services for Medical Services, Inc., is also a handyman. He built most of the house himself on a beautiful five-acre plot.

Mary’s brother clued the couple in on how to save money on their heating and cooling bills through the use of energy management (or load control) programs. He had put in a Steffes furnace in the ‘90s and liked it. To get information, they called the Co-op and asked for help designing a system for their home that would be energy efficient.

The Co-op energy management technician recommended they get their primary heat from an air source heat pump, which does double-duty heating and cooling a home with electricity that is up to 300 percent efficient.

A heat pump pulls heat from the outside during the cold months and delivers it into the house. In the summer, the process is reversed and the heat pump pulls heat from the home and transfers it outside. During the coldest months of the winter, a heat pump needs a supplemental heat source to keep things comfortable.

“Our heat pump works well to heat the home until it gets to be about 20 degrees outside,” David said.

To supplement the heat from the heat pump, the Behrens installed a Steffes storage furnace in their utility room. This type of furnace contains specially-designed ceramic bricks that heat during the night with off-peak electricity, then deliver the stored heat during the day in response to the thermostat. A storage furnace can distribute heat through ductwork like the Behrens’ heating system. A hydronic option is also available for in-floor or baseboard heat.

The type of heating system that the Behrens installed also qualifies them to go on the energy management program. During times of peak energy use by Co-op members, the Co-op can choose to control the heat pump operation and allow the Steffes storage heat to heat the home until the peak control period is over. In some homes, a dual fuel heating system uses a fossil fuel back-up system, such as a propane furnace, during times of control. By going with an all-electric system, they can take advantage of the higher efficiency of electric heat. Electricity can heat a home at a minimum of 100 percent efficiency, whereas a fossil fuel furnace can’t.

The Behrens mentioned that they like that their back-up system is electric and they don’t have to



**This 3,600 square-foot house costs less than half of what it cost for utilities in the Behrens’ Winsted home, which was only 1,100 heated square feet.**



**In this Steffes storage furnace, specially-designed ceramic bricks heat up during the night when electricity is cheapest and deliver heat during the day as the thermostat calls for it.**

worry about gas combustion and the extra dust that can come from that type of system, not to mention the safety issues. By using a Steffes storage furnace, their electric heat is generated off-peak at night, when electricity has less demand and is cheaper. And they don’t have to have a propane tank in their yard.

Although their Winsted home was only 1,100 heated square feet (not counting the unheated lower level), their utility bills were about double what they are now, even though their new home is 3,600 square feet. Over the past 12 months, the Behrens were able to heat and cool their current home and heat their water for only \$1,268.

“That’s less than half of the \$400 per month heating bills we’d see living in town, and we didn’t even use air conditioning in the summer because it was so expensive,” Mary said.

In addition to a super efficient heating/cooling



**The Behrens put a room-sized Steffes storage heater in their family room just for their Texas visitors (who like it hot). Room units are also great for heating the most-used rooms of the home while turning down the heat to other areas to save energy and money.**



**The air source heat pump is the primary source of heat in the Behrens home and the only source for cooling the home. Because of its efficiency, you get more heating and cooling than you pay for.**

system, they also purchased a Marathon water heater, with a 94 percent efficient operation, a limited lifetime warranty and the promise of the low energy management electric rate which kept their water heating bills low and hot water always available, even when family came home. Because Mary works out of her home babysitting grandchildren and having taught piano lessons for years, it’s important that the home is comfortable and energy efficient.

“We’ve never regretted going on load management at all,” she said. “We always recommend our heating system and the Co-op.”

If you’re interested in updating your heating system, call the Co-op. We will work with you to choose the best system for your needs and budget.



# Look out for a variety of scams

Scammers are always looking for a way to deceive members of cooperatives. The best way to be prepared is to be informed.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang-up the phone and contact the local authorities.

Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). The Co-op will never ask you to offer up personal financial information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our member payment center either in person, or over the phone.

- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of the Co-op that needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang-up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

Source: Meghaan Evans, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

## Industry News

### A Military Honor

On Oct. 4, the State of Minnesota, on behalf of Gov. Mark Dayton, proclaimed Great River Energy as Minnesota's 57th Yellow Ribbon Company. The Minnesota Department of Military Affairs awards the Yellow Ribbon to organizations that unite all key areas within a company structure to proactively support service members, military families and veterans. Brigadier General Sandy Best presented the honor at the cooperative's Maple Grove, Minn., office during a ceremony attended by employees, directors and member cooperative CEOs.

Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Larry Schmid, who is an Air Force veteran and retired member of the Air National Guard, received the honor on behalf of Great River Energy. He also shared the qualities that veterans bring to Great River Energy.

"Veterans know about leadership, how to work under stress, teamwork, sacrifice, integrity, and about working for the greater good for all," said Schmid. "In addition to thinking about what Great River Energy can do for veterans, we also considered what veterans can do for Great River Energy and our membership."

~Great River News

### New battery takes on problem of grid-scale energy storage

Renewable energy sources are only as reliable as the natural world that fuels them. A cloud passing overhead cuts off solar power; the wind stops blowing and windmills stop working. In order for us to depend on undependable power sources, we need a grid-sized backup.

Yet-Ming Chiang, MIT's department of material science and engineering and founder of multiple battery-research startups, was the lead author on a study published earlier this week in the journal, *Joule*, that described a battery conceived and designed with a wary eye on that first five in Chu's challenge. "We said, 'If we want energy storage at the terawatt scale, we have to use truly abundant materials,'" Chiang told MIT News.

Chiang's team knew they wanted to use sulfur as the cathode, or negative terminal, and water as the electrolyte solution that holds the energy. All told, the total chemical cost of Chiang's battery, comes to about \$1 per kilowatt hour (kWh). By comparison, the lithium-ion batteries that power most of our devices now are pretty expensive, and to manufacture the technology on a grid-sized scale is still cost-prohibitive; Elon Musk's Gigafactory pumps out batteries at or near \$200 per kWh. And that's why Chiang's team wanted to use sulfur from the start—it is readily available almost anywhere on Earth, a natural byproduct of natural gas and petroleum and, as far as energy density goes, it's second only to water and air in terms of cost per stored charge.

It's still a work in progress though. Chiang's battery is built on a flow architecture, with pumps and tubes, meaning that the amount of charge it can store is directly proportional to the amount of fluid it holds. A grid-sized battery would be much larger than one made using current methods. An even bigger problem is that Chiang's battery currently holds 1,500 hours worth of energy total, far from enough to bolster a grid-sized solar network when the clouds form overhead, but flow batteries are easy to scale and Chiang feels at the very least they're moving in the right direction.

~Quartz



**MERRY, BRIGHT AND EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING**

Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill! Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.

- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED® lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age-old standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.
- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

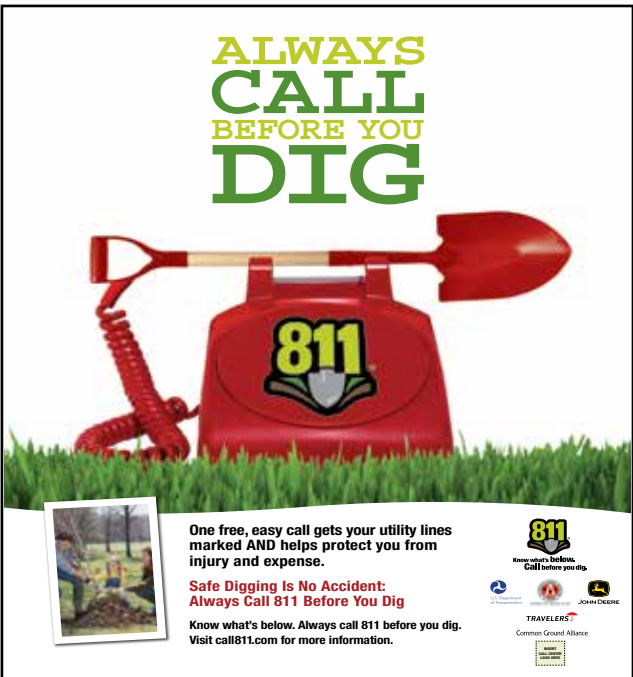
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Common Ground Alliance



Take light strings to county recycling center

McLeod Co-op Power is no longer accepting holiday light strings for recycling. Please take them directly to your county recycling center.

McLeod County Household Hazardous Waste

1065 5th Ave. SE, Hutchinson  
1-800-335-0575

Carver County Recycling Center

116 Peavey Circle, Chaska  
952-361-1835

Renville County HHW Facility

32877 County Road 4, Olivia  
320-523-1144

The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish all of our members and their families a blessed Thanksgiving. Take this time to be grateful for the many blessings we each enjoy.

The MCPA office will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 23 & 24. Please use the 24-hour outage number to reach the Cooperative for outages, emergencies or other messages: 1-800-927-5685.



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

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

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

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

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

Please check ad category

- \_\_\_ Giveaway
- \_\_\_ For Rent
- \_\_\_ For Sale
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Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

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

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

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- 55 gallon steel drums with removeable tops. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- H&S 6ft X 10ft stock trailer. 320-587-7746
- Oak home desk. 7 drawers. Very good condition. \$75. 320-485-4312
- 3 new Quartz 150 watt motion sensor lights in box. \$12/each. 320-864-4376

For Sale Farm

- 5 ton hay wagon. 2 X 8 flooring. Heavy duty. 320-587-5856
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- 2009 Vermeer 5410 round baler. \$8,500. 320-587-2502
- Gehl Scavenger 309 manure spreader. Very good condition. 320-864-4498
- Round bales of hay. 320-582-1534
- 6ft tile plow. 320-582-1534
- 3 galvanized wagons. Approx 100-150 bu. Hydraulic lifts. Good condition. 320-587-6863

Wanted

- Craftsman riding lawn mower 24hp or better. 320-300-8985

Giveaway

- Older Boston Terrier needs family. Neutered, housebroke, very friendly. 320-583-5388
- Cats. 320-587-7746

Several automatic generator installations completed



A 20 kW automatic Briggs & Stratton generator installed at a farm.

In July, McLeod Co-op Power became an authorized sales and installation retailer for Briggs & Stratton automatic standby generators. The Co-op sells automatic, permanently wired generators from 12-200 kW available to its members with turnkey installation and maintenance services. The systems are designed to give MCPA members a ready supply of electricity during power outages to keep their home warm, dry, comfortable and well-lit. The systems are highly desirable by snowbirds or weekend vacationers who worry about freezing pipes or a flooded basement. Systems can be configured to power all or most of the appliances in a home.

Residential units, which are propane or natural gas-powered, have an installed cost of \$5,800-\$9,000, depending upon size requirements and wiring. Larger farm and commercial systems are available in many sizes and price ranges, can be air-cooled or liquid-cooled, and



Generators that are 12 kW, like the one pictured, can meet the basic standby requirements of most residential homes. Farms with outbuildings or large homes may require a slightly larger generator.

come in single-phase or three-phase configurations.

The Co-op has sold quit a few systems and is trying to complete all pending installations before the ground freezes. Residential units can be installed next to the electric meter or near the house service panel if only the house needs backup power.

Members interested in more information should call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272.

Sept. 2017 Outage Summary

During the month of September the Cooperative had a total of 44 outages, affecting 112 consumers. Ten of those were planned outages for service upgrades.

The two outages which affected the most consumers were both caused by trees with wind and both were south of Hutchinson. Eighteen members were out of power for one hour and 27 minutes on Wednesday, Sept. 20 starting just before 2 a.m. and 16 members were out for just over an hour on Monday, Sept. 4,

starting at 6:47 p.m.

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.

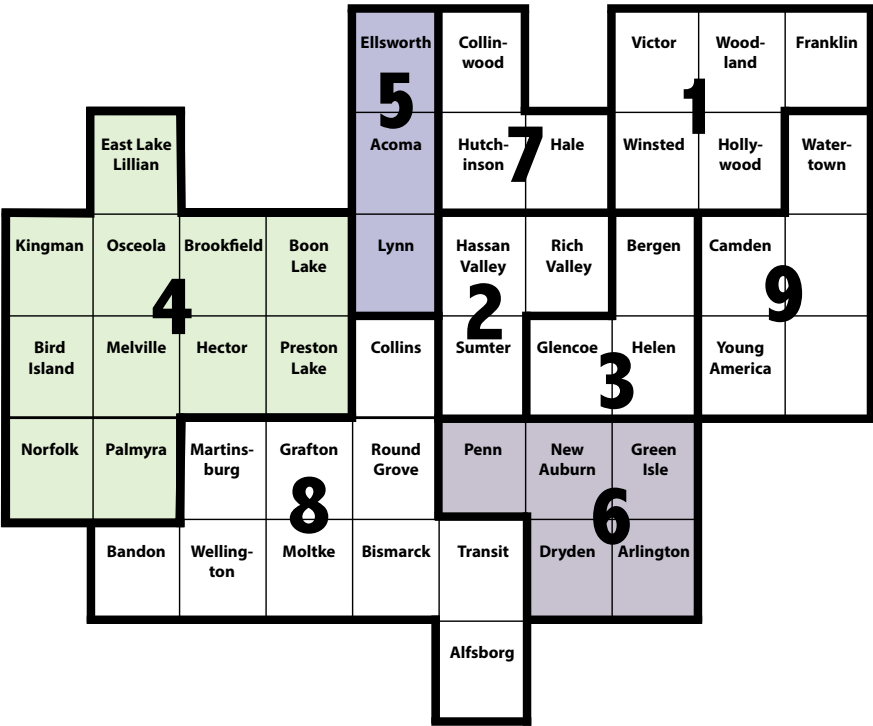
Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee

To elect directors in Districts 4, 5, & 6 at the 2018 Annual Meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

- District 4** includes: Kingman, Osceola, Brookfield, Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Hector, Melville, Bird Island, Norfolk, and Palmyra Townships in Renville County and East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County.
- District 5** includes: Lynn and Acoma Townships in McLeod County, and Ellsworth Township in Meeker County.
- District 6** includes: New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, and Dryden Townships in Sibley County, and Penn Township in McLeod County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power at 1-800-494-6272 if you are willing to volunteer for the 2018 Nominating Committee no later than January 2, 2018. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 25 and February 8, 2018. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 10, 2018.

Members in good standing who serve on the Nominating Committee are paid a per diem for the meetings plus mileage. Nominating candidates to run for board seats is an important part of the democratic process of operating your electric cooperative. We encourage your participation.



What makes a good director?

At McLeod Cooperative Power we believe that our Board of Directors comprises a pillar connection with our membership and the community at large. Besides meeting the legal requirements for Director nomination, we are seeking individuals who hold some important personal characteristics. We've summarized these attributes below.

**Possess a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members.** McLeod Cooperative Power has assets of about \$39 million, employs 27 full-time people and is responsible for providing quality electric service to more than 6,400 accounts, as well as a variety of ancillary services. Our electric distribution system serves a diverse membership consisting of residences, farms, businesses and industries. While representing all members of the district, **Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.**

**Be willing and available to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. Attendance is expected at all scheduled Board of Directors meetings. In addition, from time to time, Directors will be called upon to represent the Cooperative at other meetings and events where their presence is deemed to be beneficial to the Cooperative.**

**Remain accessible to the members whom they represent.** Since the Directors are elected from and by the Cooperative's membership, it is important that they work to **maintain open lines of communication with their constituents. They should also strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may impact the people and communities of central Minnesota,** and be capable of using basic computer skills to receive electronic communications and reports from the Co-op.

**Be enthusiastic.** During these times of accelerated change, we look for proactive, resourceful and inspired leadership.

Director qualifications per the Co-op Articles of Incorporation

Article 3, Section 2 of the McLeod Cooperative Power Association Articles of Incorporation states the following about director qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

- A. is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving service at the member's primary residence or principal place of business in the district from which the Director is elected;
- B. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- C. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative;
- D. is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- E. is a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, whether by blood, or in law, of an employee of the Cooperative;

- F. is a person that is child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, by blood, or in law, of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election at that time;
  - G. is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;
  - H. is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another Director; or
  - I. is absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during any twelve (12) month period.
- A member that is an authorized farm corporation, family farm corporation, regular corporation, partnership, limited liability partnership or other business entity may select an individual member residing on or actively operating such business entity to be eligible for election to the Board. A member that is not a natural person may select one of its officers to be eligible for election to the Board, provided that not more than two (2) such officers may serve on the Board at the same time.

MCPA Director Candidate Application

The undersigned, a member of McLeod Cooperative Power Association, hereby applies as a nominee for director of McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District \_\_\_\_\_ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next Annual Meeting, April 10, 2018.

I certify that my account is current and I am a member in good standing with McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District \_\_\_\_\_.

I certify that I am a resident of District \_\_\_\_\_ and am receiving

electric energy from McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

I certify that I am not in a competing business with McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

If elected director, I agree to attend as many meetings of the Board of Directors as possible and to abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and Policies of McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to the MCPA by Jan. 16, 2018**



Co-op website is now  
ADA compliant

For members with hearing or vision impairments, the Co-op website should now be easier to use, as it is now compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Just go to the bottom of the home page and click on “Accessibility”. It will provide options to assist with visual or hearing options.

Are you not fluent in English? The Co-op’s website is also available in many multiple languages just by clicking on the Language button on the lower right bottom of the home page.

These features are designed to meet federal accessibility and limited-English-proficiency requirements.

**When is Dual Fuel controlled and why?**

Members with Dual Fuel systems will periodically have their electric heat controlled as weather conditions, prices in the wholesale energy market, and regional power supplies dictate. Electric heat on Dual Fuel can be controlled for up to 400 hours per year and up to 12 hours in one stretch without recharge, so you want to make sure your back-up heating system is automatic and able to heat your home on the coldest winter nights for extended periods. Although control most usually will occur between 4 and 10 p.m. on a week night, it can happen in the morning and it can happen on a weekend.

For members with peak shave water heaters or Dual Fuel, control times are available daily by going to the Cooperative’s web site. Click on “Is it a Peak Control Day?” on our home page for more detailed information and historical control times.

**Make sure your backup fuel supply is adequate!**

**FirstCall Medical Monitoring**  
*Help at the push of a button*

Living alone can be an uneasy situation for medically-at-risk seniors. FirstCall Medical Monitoring service is a reliable, non-intrusive, cost-effective solution that provides individuals the satisfaction of living independently with the peace-of-mind that comes in knowing help is only a button push away.



**McLEOD CO-OP POWER**  
Glencoe, MN • 1-800-494-6272

Operation RoundUp donates to local organizations  
*Sign up today to round up your electric bill and help your neighbors in need*

Three of the local organizations which applied to the Co-op’s Operation RoundUp Trust for a donation and were awarded funds in spring were Common Cup Ministry for it’s new Thrift Store in Glencoe, Sibley County Food Share Inc, and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for the Arli-Dazzle event support.

Common Cup Ministry received a \$1,500 donation from Operation RoundUp earlier in the year for startup expenses of opening a thrift store in Glencoe. The store is located at 712 11th St E (next to Snap Fitness) in Glencoe. It is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and also 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Saturdays of the month. Funds raised from the sale of items supports programs like weekend backpack feeding, winter coat distribution, school supply distribution, monthly diaper distribution, emergency funding for rent/ utilities/food/gas. The mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one “Common Cup” so that they may minister to those in need.

Sibley County Food Share received \$2,000 to help distribute food to people in need of assistance. A donation from Operation RoundUp helped to purchase perishable items like meat and items in short supply. The food shelf is located in Gaylord.

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce received \$1,000 to assist with the cost of non-activity related items for Arli-Dazzle, such as porta potties, safety essentials such as light towers from fire departments and traffic and safety manpower, propane heaters, food for volunteers, etc. Arli-Dazzle is an annual winter day in Arlington filled with music, educational and fun entertainment, and the lighted parade. Last year the event also hosted dog sled demonstrations, ice carvers, Victorian holiday caroling, reindeer, the Amazing Hoopsters, and old fashioned 1860s baseball game, horse drawn sleigh rides, a vintage snowmobile show, a 5K race, fireworks, music, food vendors, outdoor fish house camp, a quilt show, and a raffle event.

Bob Thomes, who coordinates many of the community development activities for McLeod Co-op Power, was glad that the members of McLeod Co-op Power who round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar were able to help fund these projects. Participation in Operation RoundUp helps so many local, community organizations get projects fully funded.

It is probably the easiest tax-deductible donation you could make. Just complete the



Thrift Store Manager Roger Gronholz, Mary Gronholz, McLeod Co-op Power employee Bob Thomes, Thrift Store volunteer Celine Swift and Common Cup Director Bev Bonte.



Jackie Kruggel, Food Share Coordinator, shows the \$2,000 received by the Sibley County Food Share Inc from MCPA’s Operation RoundUp.



Bob Thomes of the Co-op’s Operation RoundUp Trust presents \$1,000 to the Arlington Chamber’s Arli-Dazzle Committee. Derek Hahn of Jerry’s Home Quality Foods, and an Arlington Chamber member, accepts the donation.

coupon on this page and return it with your bill. After that, your electric bill will always be rounded to the nearest even dollar amount. If your bill is\$ 148.77, you will be billed \$149.00. That 23 cents change goes to Operation RoundUp. Together with other member’s change and payroll donations from MCPA employees, it multiplies into a larger amount. Then the Co-op tries to get matching funds from other sources to increase it further.

Your annual donation prints right on your electric bill and is your tax-deductible receipt. The average donation is \$6.00 per year from one account. The maximum is \$11.88 per year per account. Some generous MCPA members, who have multiple electric accounts, chose to sign up more than one account to be rounded up.

The result of participation is MCPA’s Operation RoundUp Trust can help many local organizations with worthy projects to improve our communities in McLeod, Sibley, Renville and Carver Counties.

**Yes,** sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_