



MCPA System Delivery Charge is higher than other utilities *because our Co-op has only 3.5 members per mile of line*

The costs included in the System Delivery Charge (formerly called fixed charge) on your bill include the cost of the infrastructure to bring power to your home or farm, such as poles, wires, underground conductor, transformers, substations, meters and other equipment, taxes and all fixed costs. The System Delivery Charge also includes most of the cost related to providing the service such as billing, collections, customer service, communications, IT, maintaining the distribution equipment and responding to outages, system engineering, tree trimming, the Co-op buildings, and other requirements that make it possible for you to have power when you flip the switch — before you purchase even one kilowatt-hour of energy!

All the costs listed above must be divided up between the Co-op members. The more members a co-op has, the smaller the cost per member. McLeod Co-op Power averages 3.5 members per mile of line. McLeod Co-op Power is on the lower side (less density) compared to other utilities in Minnesota and the nation (see chart).

Municipal Utilities have a lot of customers in a

relatively small geographic area resulting in a small fixed charge per customer. IOUs like Xcel Energy, have high urban density and significant industrial load to offset any rural areas they serve. McLeod Co-op Power has no urban density and minimal industrial load. Our farm and residential membership divides the cost to deliver electricity between very few members per mile. This is what drives our System Delivery Charge to be much higher than the base charge at municipal utilities or IOUs, or even a little higher than the average Minnesota Co-op with six members per mile of line.

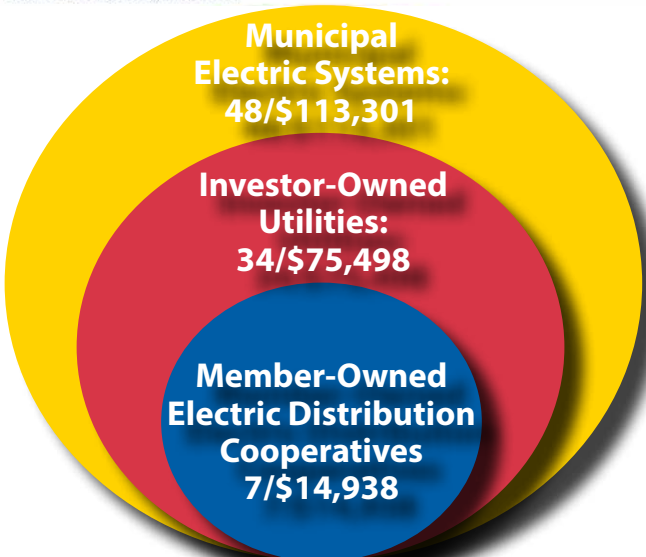
It all comes down to the density equation. Rural areas typically do not have natural gas service, high speed internet or wastewater service because the population density is too low to financially recover the cost to build the infrastructure. We are fortunate to have reliable electric service in our rural areas. We can thank the Co-ops who brought in power decades ago when other utilities did not want to serve low density areas. Today, we have high-speed and high-quality electric service available to us, but we pay a higher price than urban dwellers to get that service due to only a few members per mile splitting the cost.

• McLeod Co-op Power has 3.5 members/mile

• 1,895 miles of distribution lines

Because of higher population densities (more consumers served per mile of line), municipal electric systems and investor-owned utilities receive more revenue per mile of line than electric cooperatives.

Consumers served/revenue per mile of line for different utilities:



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

★ **MN Co-ops**
★ 6 mem/ml
★ 121,000 miles of distribution lines

★ **MN IOUs**
★ 38 cust/ml
★ 70,000 combined miles of line

★ **MN Municipals**
★ 48 cust/ml

MCPA Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 10

Doors open 8:30 a.m.



Music by Josie Sanken beginning at 9:00 a.m.

- Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- Prize drawings at close of meeting. Grand prize \$300 electric bill credit.
- Lunch to follow meeting.

Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met in January and February to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 4, 5, & 6. 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.

The persons selected by the Nominating Committee for this year's election are:

District 4: Doug Kirtz and Gary R. Trohkimoinen

District 5: Allan Duesterhoeft and Keith Heinrich

District 6: Gary Burdorf and Darrel Mosel

See director profiles on page 8.

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

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Manager's Message —

by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager

Democracy is the co-op way

The more you put in, the more you get out.

Every year McLeod Co-op Power has an annual meeting. This year's meeting is on April 10 at the Hutchinson Event Center. One of the most important activities we conduct is the election for the board of directors. These are the nine people we entrust to give strategic direction and ensure the Co-op has good governance.

In 1844 when the 28 Rochdale pioneers created the modern cooperative movement, they were insistent that all members have the right to vote. Unless we consistently remind ourselves about how precious this right to vote truly is we can easily take it for granted.

At McLeod Co-op Power, we try to make it as convenient as possible for members to participate in the election by allowing voting by mail or in-person at the Annual Meeting. As the utility industry is experiencing some of the biggest changes since its founding, electric co-ops need your active participation. As a member of a co-op, you have the right (and some may even say the obligation) to help set the direction for the Co-op. This is a critical difference between co-ops and other electricity providers, such as investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or municipally-owned systems.

With IOUs, you are a customer and there is no required ownership. IOU stockholders live far away and have no direct attachment to the organization other than seeking a return on their investment. Communities served by municipally-owned systems may vote for the mayor or city council, but the connection to the electric service is very indirect.

The board of directors of a co-op makes important strategic decisions for the organization, while the operations (day-to-day running of the business) is entrusted to the employees. Examples of decisions boards make that impact all the members are:

- policies and governance
- the level of involvement in community economic development
- whether to offer renewable types of energy such as solar or wind generated power to the members
- offering other services and products such as backup generators
- approving the budget for the co-op

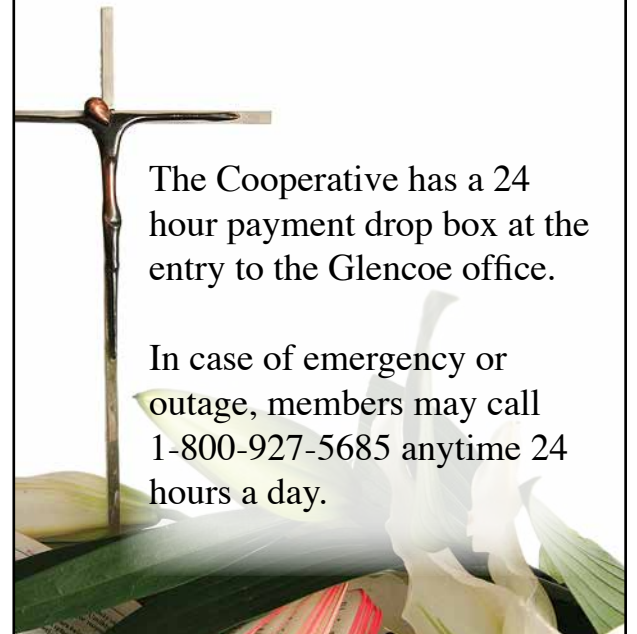
So to participate in this upcoming election for the board, you may want to ask the candidates where they stand on these or other issues, or read the reasons they want your vote in this newsletter. As locally-owned businesses in the community, electric co-ops have the opportunity to introduce neighbors to neighbors and rekindle that spirit of democracy at the grassroots level. We can encourage respectful debate about the role we see our Co-op playing in our community.

We know that democracy is not a perfect form of governing, it just happens to be better than any of the others. Maybe if we can practice doing it well at the local level, it will have a positive impact on our democracy as a whole.

We hope to see you at your Annual Meeting.
Carrie



McLeod Cooperative Power office will be closed on Good Friday, March 30.



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.

Winners in survey drawing

A hearty THANK YOU to all members who completed and returned the 2018 MCPA Member Satisfaction survey. We received over 1,700 surveys back from members. Your feedback was greatly appreciated and will help the Co-op in assessing its services.

Five members had their surveys drawn out as winners of the \$100 electric bill credits. Congratulations to

Mark Weiman of Arlington
Scott & Lisa Elfering of Stewart
Lyndon Anderson of Hector
Fred Runke of Stewart and
Nic and Marj Frieler of Glencoe

They will each receive a \$100 electric bill credit applied to their next electric bill.

Board of Directors

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier, 320-485-2554

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

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President, 320-779-1101

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

District 3 - David Resch, 952-449-1793

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

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

dkirtz@mcleodcoop.com

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

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft, 320-587-9134

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

District 6 - Gary Burdorf, 507-964-5815

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

District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

rhlavka@mcleodcoop.com

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

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

kpeterson@mcleodcoop.com

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

District 9 - Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

952-353-2153
Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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

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

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

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Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

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

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

Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 22

Members residing in Districts 4, 5, & 6 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 22, 2018. 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 10, 2018.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 22.



Nominating Committee prepared slate of director candidates for 2018

Members of the Nominating Committee from Districts 4, 5, & 6 met on January 25 and February 8 to select candidates to run for director elections in their respective districts. Serving on this year's nominating committee were:

Standing (l to r) Duane Kistner, Veryl Becker, Dennis Busse, and Andrew Rasmussen. Seated (l to r) Paul Barchenger, Glen Kurth, Kevin Fluhrer, and Frank Berg. Not present for photo: Todd Grunzke.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE Hutchinson Event Center, April 10, 2018

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center	8:30 A.M.
Music by Josie Sanken	9:00 A.M.
Meeting Called to Order	10:00 A.M.
Invocation	Joe Griebie, Director
National Anthem	Josie Sanken
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 2017 Annual Meeting	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Dist 4, 5, & 6	Keith Peterson, President
Introduction of Directors in Districts 1-3, 7-9	Keith Peterson, President
Financial Report	Susan Noyes, Manager of Finance
Closing of Ballots	Keith Peterson, President
Washington D.C. Youth Tour Attendee	Video by McKaia Ryberg
Manager's Report	Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager
Guest Speaker	Alison Deelstra, MREA Director of Education & Communication
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	Allan Duesterhoeft, 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

Bakken Museum program given at local school



The Bakken Museum presented "War of The Currents" at Sibley East in Gaylord on January 22nd. Students from Sibley East and Immanuel Lutheran in Gaylord enjoyed an assembly show performed by The Bakken Museum and hosted by Great River Energy and McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

The presenters provided students information about electrical generation, transmission, and conservation



through the story of Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison and their historic debate over Alternating Current (AC) versus Direct Current (DC). The presentation provided both visual and interactive discovery with the demonstration of the Tesla coil at the end. Students were encouraged to delve into science and who knows perhaps someday the Bakken will be doing a presentation about them.



Fixer-upper beautifully blends function, efficiency and design



The dining room blends cozy casual with clean, simple lines.

“Do you have the guts to take on a fixer upper?”

asks Joanna Gaines, star of the hit HGTV show Fixer Upper. She and husband Chip Gaines take a old home and turn it into a dream home for their clients.

While the idea sounds exciting and even romantic in some respects, not everyone is up to the challenge of taking an old home and seeing the vision of what it could someday be, much less to put in the time and sweat equity to get it there.

However, that’s exactly what Ryan and Allison (Allie) Lundeen did when they purchased a 106-plus-year-old old home during a live auction six years ago.

“My parents thought we were absolutely nuts buying this house when they saw it,” said Allie. “But I love old houses because they have character. Character is hard to build into new houses. The only way we’re going to get into a house with character is to buy something old.”



Clean simplicity in this bath showcases the unique and creative touches Allie has added for a one-of-a-kind design.



The clean, light-colored palette is carried throughout the home, including the living room in the original house.

Ryan always wanted to live in the country and appreciated the property’s many outbuildings. Despite the challenges with the house, it seemed to be just what they were looking for.

So the couple, who had two young children at the time, parked a pop-up camper in the driveway and set to work turning their century-old house into their dream home. They gutted the house, added insulation, removed the gas wall furnaces and replaced them with a new heating system, re-framed and opened up parts of the house, and gave it an over-all face lift.

Ryan, a heating and air conditioning contractor who now is employed at 3M in Hutchinson, performed 90 percent of the work himself, only getting help from others for jobs he couldn’t or didn’t have time to do. They had the framing, septic and other heavy construction work hired out and Ryan’s cousin did sheetrock taping and mudding, but the rest Ryan and Allie did, including wiring, plumbing and finish work.

As an HVAC expert, Ryan knew the options out there and what would fit the house and their lifestyle. The house had an old rock foundation so they added a boiler and in-floor heat on off-peak, which qualified them for the low energy management electric rate and kept their toes warm.

“We just love the in-floor heat,” said Ryan. It’s nice, quiet, even heat with no drafts.”

“Otherwise our floors were freezing,” Allie said. “It’s really been a God-send.”

A three-floor 1500 square foot addition they constructed last year allowed them to add an air source heat pump and an efficient, two-stage variable-speed furnace and vent it through the attic. The heat pump is also on load-management with the furnace acting as an automatic back-up. Previously their air conditioning was accomplished via a mini-split system on the main level with “window-shakers” upstairs. Now the heat pump provides central air for the entire house.

“I married a handy one,” said Allie. “I don’t think he knew how handy he was.”



Ryan and Allison (Ali) Lundeen and three of their four children: Beckett, 3; Tate, 9; and Kynlee, 8. Ruby, 2, was napping.

“I learned a lot on the way,” Ryan said. “I just learned to say ‘Yeah!’ a lot and to do what I was told.”

Allie, who had the vision of what the home could be, did the design, and chronicled the journey as part of her blog, Proverbs 31 Girl (<http://proverbs31girl.com>). Included are before and after photos and a shopping list for items she used to furnish their remodeled home. The site has become so popular, she and her sisters started a business in the couples’ large barn. Four times a year it is filled with home decor signs, pillows and other items.



Whimsy Green holds four sales per year, announced on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WhimsyGreen. The next sale is in April.

The business, Whimsy Green, has become so popular, it draws people from the cities and out of state and has been featured in print and on the WCCO program “Finding Minnesota.” They even caught the eye of HGTV, who interviewed the couple for a possible reality TV show. You’ll find photos of Whimsy Green decor and information on upcoming sales on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WhimsyGreen. Their next sale will be held in April.



An example of some of the items featured during their Christmas sale in the Whimsey Green barn.

I wanted to put a horse, some chickens and a cow in the barn,” Ryan said. “Now it’s filled with signs and pillows.” However, Ryan is happy to help during the sales, directing traffic and parking, and loading signs into customers’ cars.

Allie, a home-schooling mom of Tate, 9; Kynlee, 8; Beckett, 3; and Ruby, 2, hasn’t stopped thinking about ways to add to what they’ve created.

“I sit home all day and stare at the four walls and think, ‘What should

we do’”. I send Ryan photos and he’s like, ‘Shut your phone off.’”

“Nah, it’s really been a lot of fun,” Ryan said.

“This is our third house we’ve remodeled, and he’s starting to trust me more,” Allie added, laughing.



Ryan’s “man cave” features in-floor heat, a fireplace, fridge, big-screen TV and a leather sectional.

Recently, Allie turned an old granary on the property into a “man cave” for Ryan. It features in-floor heat, a fireplace and surround sound. She and Ryan also turned a one-car garage into a charming guest cottage.

“I love before and afters,” Allie said.

While many couples might rest on their laurels, the Lundeens are not

done yet. They recently purchased a small, old cabin on nearby Dunn Lake, which they will begin to tackle in the spring. This journey also will be featured on her website.

“We just can’t sit still,” Ryan said.

“This will be a play-while-we-work project,” said Allie. We wanted to do this when our kids were small and could enjoy the lake.”

Asked if he had any advice for homeowners who are looking to build, remodel or change their HVAC system, Ryan said, “You should never skimp on your heating and cooling equipment. Consider options for off-peak. Do not skimp on HVAC when it comes to your house. Higher-efficiency models will pay off. You will feel more comfortable. It’s hard to spend that money when you’re looking at it, but it’s well worth it. Our Marathon water heater is a very good water heater. I love how insulated they are.”

“We got really good rebates from the Co-op and Terry Heidecker was awesome to work with.”

Industry News

Praise for passage of carbon capture technology bill

U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp worked to build an unlikely coalition of allies-coal companies, environmental groups, oil and gas companies, labor organizations, and utilities- to back her FUTURE Act, which will encourage technological innovation in carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) while also reducing carbon emissions.

Heitkamp’s bipartisan bill- which she worked on with U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and John Barrasso (R-WY)- passed in the U.S. Congress and was signed into law by the president.

“Thank you Senator Heitkamp for your leadership on the FUTURE Act. Many power plants in North Dakota and around the nation are near oil fields that could use carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery. The enactment of the FUTURE Act could facilitate CO2 recovery from power plants, which would provide an environmental benefit to the electric power sector and would encourage more thorough recovery of the oil resource,” said Rick Lancaster, vice president and chief generation officer, Great River Energy

~ 4-Traders

Grants kick-start energy efficiency projects

A Department of Commerce program to kick-start energy efficiency around the state named 39 projects, from LED lighting in La Crescent to solar panel systems analysis for dairy farmers in west-central Minnesota, in its latest round of grant awards. The projects were chosen from 72 requests from cities, churches, nonprofits, American Indian bands, a food co-op and other groups looking for ways to go renewable or cut their energy bills, or both.

Many of the grants provide something to get projects started but will not cover the entire cost, according to spokesman Dan Thiede of the Clean Energy Resource Teams. The CERT group is a partnership created by the Legislature and funded by the Department of Commerce. It has given away more than \$1 million to 300 projects since 2006.

~Star Tribune

2018 LIGNITE EDUCATION SEMINAR



JUNE 11-14 BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

Learn about the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to the Midwest.



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**RECEIVE TEACHING
MATERIALS FOR THE
CLASSROOM**



Power Line Worker Scholarship Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2018-19 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 or by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 13, 2018.



Be Safe

Stay clear of downed power lines

**NEVER TOUCH
A DOWNED
POWER LINE.**
Always assume it is
energized and call
911 immediately.

POWERFUL STORMS can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:

- Stay at least 50 feet away from it and assume it is energized. The ground may also be energized making the entire area extremely dangerous.
- Never touch anything that is touching a downed power line. It is as dangerous as the line itself.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside your vehicle until help arrives.

Keep elderly parents safe while they live alone

Do you worry about your parents getting older?

Do you worry about mom or dad living alone?

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

The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and give mom or dad greater independence. Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 for more information.



McLeod Cooperative Power Association
1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Glencoe, MN 55336-0070
1-800-494-6272

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
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

**Please check
ad category**

- ☐ Giveaway
- ☐ For Rent
- ☐ For Sale
- ☐ Wanted

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.

For Sale Miscellaneous

- 1500-gallon water tank w/pump & 5hp Briggs engine. 507-327-1869
- Newly built bluebird houses. 320-864-3282
- Antique tractor seats. 320-864-3282
- Antique wooden hand rakes. 320-864-3282
- 8ft Pendaliner pickup bed-liner. Brand new condition. \$100. 320-223-5171
- Used lumber, 2in X 4in & 2in X 6in, and others. 320-587-7746
- Double stainless-steel kitchen sink with faucets. 320-864-3274
- Arctic Cat Purple powerlube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- Sleigh 5ft 6 1/2in long, 4ft 1 1/2in wide, 2ft 5in high. \$50. 320-587-8784
- 55-gallon steel barrels w/removeable tops. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 1998 Ford F150 manual transmission. Runs great. 320-510-1966
- Wooden pallets 40in X 48in, 4-way. 320-583-1200
- XL Shoei RJ-air platinum. Worn couple times. \$50. 612-619-6281
- Fox Creek motorcycle jacket XXL-56. Like new. \$300. 612-619-6281
- Childs pink camo recliner. Like new. \$40. 320-510-3694
- Yale forklift. 5000lb lift. 320-582-1534
- Schwartz snow bucket. 320-582-1534

- Kids playhouse/school bus shelter. 320-582-1534
- Detroit 353 motor. 320-582-1534
- 3pt mounted snowblower. 320-582-1534

For Sale Farm

- 900 CIH 8 row corn planter 30in, no fertilizer. 320-510-2730
- J.D. 60 gas, good shape, 3-point, new tires, no paint. Clean. 320-223-5268
- 6ft Wayne's tile plow. 320-582-1534
- Round bales for bedding. 320-582-1534
- 2-225 bushel gravity boxes. 320-582-1534
- Tractor cab for IHC tractor. 320-582-1534
- Seed vac, complete unit for gravity/truck box. 320-582-1534
- John Deere 20 disk grain drill. 320-864-4496
- 2009 New Holland tractor 6030, 320-395-2716
- Meyer 300 manure spreader 320-395-2716

Wanted

- Part-time help with spring field work. NE Hutchinson. 320-583-2526
- Old motorcycles, mini bikes, mopeds, 3 & 4 wheelers. Running or not. 320-282-4999

Giveaway

- Free Cats. 320-587-7746

Electric Car-a-oke to Debut at Twin Cities Auto Show



The 2018 Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) will be used to demonstrate high performance on the test course. It is a prime example of an electric plug-in vehicle that also has a gas engine. It has the economy and efficiency of an EV with the guaranteed long driving range (when needed) of a gas powered vehicle.

Is an electric vehicle for you? Find out at the Electric Room!

Plan to visit the Electric Room at the 45th Annual Twin Cities Auto Show held March 10-18, 2018, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Electric Room will feature the latest technology in plug-in electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and debut Electric Car-a-oke — a Chevrolet Bolt EV version of the viral hit Carpool Karaoke.

“Today, it is possible for electric vehicles to go farther for far less,” said David Ranallo, manager of member services and marketing at Great River Energy. “With the evolution of battery and charging technology, owning and driving an electric vehicle is easier and more affordable than ever before.”

At this year’s Auto Show, electric and hybrid vehicles are growing beyond the Electric Room. The “Mitsubishi Minnesota Mile,” an indoor test track featuring the newest fuel-efficient Mitsubishi crossovers will make its world premiere, including the 74 MPGe Outlander PHEV electric hybrid. At this experience, visitors can ride with a professional driver across a test track that features Minnesota’s two seasons: winter and road construction.

The Electric Room this year is powered by Plug Into MN — a campaign that launched in the fall of 2017 to promote awareness around the places, experiences and adventures that are possible for electric vehicle owners thanks to the expansion of charging stations around the state. These charging stations along the I-35 corridor and Highway 61 make up the first electrified highway in Minnesota, allowing electric vehicle owners to drive from the Twin Cities

to Lutsen and visit all of the destinations in between. Electric co-ops are excited to be a part of future electrification of corridors in MN.

To celebrate the state’s first electric corridor being complete, Minnesota electric cooperatives are offering a North Shore getaway sweepstakes. Participants could win an electric Minnesota road trip, including a Tesla rental car, two-night stay at Larmsmont Cottages on Lake Superior and the cost of meals.

With our program Revolt, members of electric cooperatives are also able to charge their electric vehicle with 100% renewable energy, for the lifetime of their vehicle, at no additional charge.

To enter, visit www.plugintomn.com or visit the Electric Room at the Auto Show. Also in the Electric Room, talk to MN Plug-In Vehicles Owners members about:

- What it’s like to drive an electric car every day
- How a vehicle can be powered 100 percent by wind through Great River Energy’s Revolt program, offered to electric vehicle owners who are members of its 28 member cooperatives
- How and where to charge a vehicle with renewables
- Electric vehicles available today on the market in Minnesota

For more information about this year’s Twin Cities Auto Show — including ticket prices, hours, exhibit details and more — visit twincitiesautoshow.com.

January 2018 Outage Summary

January had 39 outages. The largest regular outage affected 951 accounts on Thursday, January 4 between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m. The outage affected three MCPA substations in Renville County. Members served off of Preston Lake, Brookfield and Hector substations were impacted. It was caused by an Xcel Energy transmission line outage. Members were without power for 1.5 to 2.5 hours depending upon which substation they are served from. The second largest outage was southwest of Hutchinson on Monday, January 29 at 11:33 p.m. The outage lasted for one hour and

33 minutes and 88 consumers were affected. Cause of the outage was unknown.

March 5 Outages

On a snowy Monday, March 5, over 2,900 Co-op members experienced two outages. A tree on a transmission line in Glencoe caused four Co-op substations in McLeod and Sibley Counties to trip off-line. Power was restored to everyone in less than one hour. At 3:29 PM an event near Winthrop tripped off those same four substations. Power was restored in three of the substations in less than an hour and Winthrop sub consumers were restored after repairs were made.

Binge-watching a season of your favorite show



Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

A \$400 rebate and so many other good reasons to join the Hot Water Storage Program

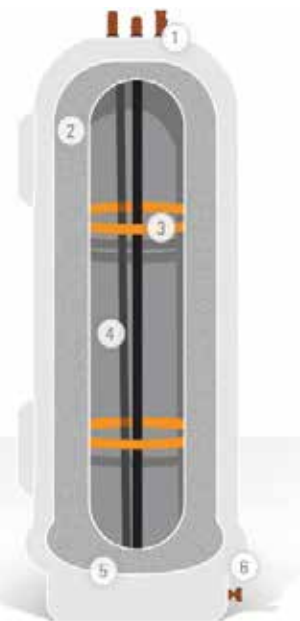
USES DISCOUNTED ENERGY
The price of energy can fluctuate depending on how much of it is being consumed by the community. Electric Thermal Storage water heaters can save you energy and money by drawing energy during times of low demand, while it's less expensive. And we all know that when it comes to saving money, every drop counts.

SKIP THE RUSH
Peak energy refers to periods of time when electricity demand is at its highest. These energy “rush hours” include weekday mornings as people are preparing for work and in the evening around dinner time. Electric Thermal Storage water heaters avoid the congestion by drawing the energy it needs to heat water overnight.

HOT WATER, NO WORRIES
Since the water heated during off peak energy hours is kept hot within its insulated storage tank until you use it, you and your family can save energy and enjoy all the hot water you need, whenever you need it.



SAVE UP TO 50% ON WATER HEATING



THE WORLD’S MOST ADVANCED WATER HEATER

- 1 Avoid burns thanks to an **anti-scald mixing valve** that blends hot water with cold water.
- 2 The 2.5 inches of **Envirofoam® insulation** minimizes standby heat loss, keeping water hot and ready to use.
- 3 High-tech **heating elements** are in direct contact with water, minimizing heat loss and achieving nearly 100% efficiency.
- 4 **Storage tanks** are available with a capacity of up to 105 gallons, allowing for even large families to enjoy hot water all day.
- 5 Its **bowl-shaped bottom** easily allows complete drainage, which also helps prevent sediments from building up.
- 6 While still easy to access, the streamlined design of the **recessed drain valve** prevents it from getting damaged and allows for easier transport.

Profiles of Director Candidates for District 4, 5, & 6

The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each of these districts to appear on the ballot. Below are the candidates they have selected for Districts 4, 5, & 6.

District 4 includes:

Kingman, Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola, Melville, Bird Island, Norfolk, and Palmyra Townships in Renville County, and a portion of East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County, served by McLeod Cooperative Power.



Doug Kirtz

Doug is currently the District 4 director and the board secretary. He operates Kirtz Farms, a farrow to wean hog operation, by Hector with the assistance of his wife Lorie and children Seth, Eli, and Sadie. Lorie is also a full time financial advisor with Ameriprise.

Doug and his family are members of St John's Lutheran Church near Cedar Mills. He has served as trustee on the church council. He has also served in leadership positions with the Renville County Pork Producers, BLHS Scouts, and youth sports.

Doug is interested in keeping your Cooperative fiscally sound now and for years to come, with good reliable service for its members. He focuses on keeping all members his top priority when making decisions. He will strive to keep the Cooperative strong for those that rely on McLeod Co-op power for their energy and consumer products for homes, farms and businesses.



Gary R. Trohkimoinen

Gary is a native of South Dakota. Following a long career in engineering management and electrical engineering services for employers in several states, Gary and his wife Jan retired in Minnesota in 2010. Since that time, they built a shop and a home on the shores of Preston Lake in Renville County. Gary did much of the construction and the landscaping himself.

Gary attained his BS in Electrical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and his ME in Electrical Engineering from the University of Idaho.

Gary's career included directing construction and startup of manufacturing plant expansions for Firestone Tire & Rubber, designing and constructing control systems for ethanol plants and a radioactive waste incinerator, developing safety equipment for nuclear power plants and spent nuclear fuel repositories, and transportation systems for radioactive waste.

Jan taught special education in Denver, CO. After they moved to Buffalo Lake she volunteered at BLHS for several years. They have two grown sons and several grandchildren. Gary's hobby is woodworking. He builds his own furniture and cabinets.

When asked what he could contribute to the Co-op board, Gary stated, "I have a lot of experience working with utilities and the government regulation they are challenged with. All my life I was a problem solver. I can contribute to solutions and offer insights to challenges the Co-op faces."

District 5 includes:

Lynn and Acoma Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth Township in Meeker County.



Allan Duesterhoeft

Allan lives about eight miles southwest of Hutchinson. He sold his dairy herd in 2009 and now buys bull calves and feeds Holstein steers. He farms 160 acres, raising corn, soybeans, and alfalfa.

Allan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church and serves as congregation treasurer.

Allan would like to continue as a director because of the tremendous importance electricity has in our lives. The government mandates and restrictions on electricity generation are not going away. This is just one reason communication with the membership is so important. Minnesota has a net metering law which basically states that a utility must buy any excess generation from a member at the same average retail price that it charges. This does not make financial sense when we can buy power much cheaper from our power supplier. I will work with legislators to correct this imbalance. I am supportive of the Co-op's Community Solar Project where participating members are not subsidized by other members.



Keith Heinrich

Keith is interested in serving as a director in District 5. He is a retired financial officer with a degree in Business Administration from Union College in Nebraska. He is a CPA. He also completed a diploma course in Hospital Organization and Management from the University of Saskatchewan.

Keith feels that his many years of experience working in financial and administrative management in the charitable/non-profit environment gives him a strong background in what it takes to serve the members of the Cooperative.

Keith and his wife Yvonne have lived on a residential acreage north of Hutchinson in Acoma Township for eight years. Yvonne was a teacher. They have three daughters, one son, and nine grandchildren.

He is active with hobby farming, volunteering for Gospel Outreach, and doing church/school financial auditing. In his spare time, he enjoys building furniture from reclaimed wood, gardening, helping family and friends remodel or repair their homes, and playing with his grandchildren.

Finding ways for members of the Cooperative to reduce their consumption of electricity and procuring electricity from renewable resources such as solar, wind or thermal are important to Keith.

District 6 includes:

New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, and Dryden Townships in Sibley County and Penn Township in McLeod County.



Gary Burdorf

Gary farms 120 acres (beef and crops) in Green Isle Township, Sibley County. He has lived on the farm for 44 years, where along with his wife Carol, they raised four children. They also have seven grandchildren.

Gary is a graduate of Sibley East High School. He served in the US Army and is a Vietnam veteran. Gary retired recently from driving school bus for Sibley East for 27 years. He is still a substitute driver.

Gary has been a Green Isle Township Supervisor for 21 years, MN Association of Townships Director for several years, and has served as a trustee for MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust. Gary serves on the Governor's Clean Water Council. He has experience lobbying at the state and federal level. He is also a life-long member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arlington.

Gary would like to work together with the current board to help make our Co-op run smoothly and he feels that it is very important to stay in tune with local, and particularly rural, needs.



Darrel Mosel

Darrel is a dairy, livestock, and crop farmer in Dryden Township in Sibley County, where he and his wife Diane, have lived since 1981. They have two children.

Darrel is a graduate of Truman High School and has a B.A. in Economics from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He served as a state legislator for McLeod and Sibley Counties from 1992-1994. He has also served as president and treasurer of the UCC Church in Gaylord, and served on their congregational care and outreach into the community teams. He has been a member of the Service to Mankind (service club) in Gaylord the past 25 years, is a member of the Minnesota Farmer's Union and the Land Stewardship Organization.

Darrel stated he would like to explore ideas to make our electrical system as efficient as it can be. He values the importance of an efficient rural electric system and would like to work to continue having a good system. Darrel feels he could work to find common ground with board members and promote fiscal responsibility at MCPA.