

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

March 2019



Winter winds stopped even a bucket truck dead in its tracks west of Hector in the February 24 blizzard, as a McLeod Co-op Power line crew responded to a weather-related power outage.

Thank you to everyone who worked together to get co-op members power back on

There were two very dedicated McLeod Co-op Power linemen to thank for getting power restored to 28 co-op members in Renville County during blizzard conditions on Sunday, February 24. They made their way from Glencoe to Hector through white-out conditions until even their bucket truck was stopped by the impassable snow drifts. They would not have made it to the site of the feeder outage west of Hector had it not been for the efforts of a dispatcher at the Renville County Sheriff's Office that found them a snow plow to get them through the drifted roads.

Our thanks go out to the Renville County Sheriff's Office, the Renville County Highway Department, and the county snow plow driver that helped get the McLeod Co-op Power line crew to the outage location and back to Hector. Thank you also to those patient co-op members during the outage which lasted a little over six hours.

The line crew was forced to wait out the rest of the storm, sleeping in their truck overnight in Hector. By Monday morning the major highways were plowed. They responded to one additional member with electrical issues in the area before heading back to the Co-op in Glencoe.

Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met January 24 and February 14 to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 7, 8, and 9. 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 before March 15.

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

District 7: Randy Hlavka and Leon G. Johnson

District 8: Keith Peterson and Todd Trebelhorn

District 9: Susan Anderson and Steven Simpson

See director profiles on page 8.

MCPA Annual Meeting Hutchinson Event Center Tuesday, April 9

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

**Music by Lyndon
Peterson
(one-man band)
beginning at 8:50 a.m.**



Photo courtesy of the Hutchinson Leader

- **Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.**
- **Lunch to follow meeting**

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Official publication of



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

Legislative Visits, Polar Vortex, and Annual Meeting

I invite you to fill up your coffee cup and have a seat because my column is long winded this month, but hopefully interesting.

McLeod Co-op Power's statewide association, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), held their annual meeting February 19 and 20 in Saint Paul. Several of the Board Directors and I are always in attendance because it is a great opportunity to hear from industry experts, network with Directors and Managers from other electric co-ops, and most importantly, visit with our legislators to both advocate for our industry needs and educate our representatives about our local energy issues.

First off, I'd like to point out our representatives are working very hard to represent their districts. It is amazing to me their patience and genuine interest in hearing what we have to say. These folks put in long hours listening to their constituency, but at the same time, they also have committee meetings and papers to read to understand the issues, and the "to-do" list seems endless. But listen they did!

Our local energy issues included advocating for "Consumer Owned Utilities Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) Reform" and education on "Renewables — Let the Market Work."

CIP Reform — Consumer Owned Utilities is another way of saying Minnesota electric co-ops and Minnesota's Municipal Utilities Association have teamed up to request reform to the Conservation Improvement Program.

CIP establishes annual goals for all utilities to reduce their electricity sales by at least 1.5% every year, and, spend at least 1.5% of their revenue on measures reducing electricity use. This program has achieved significant success in achieving these goals. It has helped our members and citizens use electricity more wisely and has facilitated the successful widespread adoption of electricity saving measures. It was put in place in 2007. The industry has changed substantially since then, and this program badly needs to be modernized to enhance benefits to our consumers and the state.

Current Status — Continued success depends on modernizing the program. Many of the things it incentivizes have now been deployed to the point of saturation. People buy energy-efficient appliances based largely on their market availability and competitiveness, making the CIP induced rebates less influential. LED lighting is increasingly not only the preferred option but the only option.



MCPA directors and General Manager Carrie Buckley met with state legislators Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, Rep. Dave Baker, Rep. Tim Miller, Rep. Jim Nash, Sen. Scott Jensen, Sen. Scott Newman, and Sen. Andrew Lang on February 19. They discussed key energy and conservation bills with these legislators. They also shared our rural perspective on some critical energy legislation with metro legislators John Hoffman and Dave Osmek, who serve on the Senate Energy Committee. Senator Hoffman may be familiar to our Carver County members as he grew up in the Watertown area. Pictured l to r: Senator John Hoffman, MCPA Board Member Joe Griebie, and MCPA General Manager Carrie Buckley.

Perversely, efficient (beneficial) electrification opportunities, such as the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), is discouraged by CIP, since the current program cannot be used to encourage them and EVs result in higher energy sales. The transportation sector now emits more carbon than electric power generation, and every vehicle converted to electricity results in a net reduction in emissions.

The existing CIP program fails to support innovative and emerging technologies. Many consumer-owned utilities are capable of advancements the current program does not recognize. In its current format, the CIP program is unsustainable and increasingly ineffective.

Principles of CIP Reform

- Emphasizes end use total energy efficiency rather than narrowly focusing on reducing electricity use. Recognizes total energy system efficiency improvements across sectors (E.g., Transportation, Agriculture, Public, etc.)
- Specifically, the goal will remain at 1.5% annually, but 0.5% of this total can be achieved with efficient electrification programs, such as incentivizing electric vehicles.

- Eliminates the spending goal — the program should be about results, not spending.
- Provides for multi-year plans, to allow programs to be implemented and progress to be measured over a multi-year period.
- Retains the exemption for small cooperatives and municipals that is in current law.
- Ensures the needs of low-income consumers are effectively addressed.

In summary, we asked our legislators to support reform of CIP for consumer owned utilities, to:

- Encourage innovation with tomorrow's technologies.
- Incorporate efficient electrification into the program. This will result in MN's program being nation leading — focusing on total energy reduction instead of narrowly on reducing electricity use.
- Reduce consumers' total energy bills and provide better tools for reducing carbon.

Renewables — Let the Market Work — The electric grid is rapidly growing greener. Reliable and affordable energy is being delivered to homes and businesses with radically lower pollution and diminishing carbon impacts. Ongoing fuel diversification is primarily the result of changing market conditions, creating a financial incentive to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels — and increase our use of wind, solar and renewable-enabling natural gas plants.

In spite of our rapid adoption of renewable energy resources, we are very concerned about proposals that would derail market forces and ignore the engineering limits of existing technology. Proposals to dramatically increase Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) will turn the current market dynamics on their head by imposing mandates that inevitably push the price of procuring renewables higher. Why should everybody pay higher prices simply to achieve what the market is already accomplishing?

The renewable penetration levels being proposed this session have never been seriously studied. However, the Midwest ISO (MISO) recently released a Renewable Integration Assessment that identified the need for substantially more transmission system investments and a growing

Manager's Message continued on next page



Board of Directors

Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not

oversee day-to-day operation of McLeod Co-op Power. Administration of maintenance, electric service, and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff, under the direction of General Manager Carrie Buckley. Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-494-6272.

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, 320-583-7673
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, 320-583-0037
Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

kpeterson@mcleodcoop.com
320-583-0997

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

District 9 - Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer, 952-353-2153

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

General Manager - Carrie Buckley
cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com, 800-494-6272

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe, MN
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Editor: Sue Pawelk

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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1-800-252-1166

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

Manager's Message continued

risk of grid stability issues as penetration levels of renewable energy approach 40%.

As an example of why having a balanced mix of generation resources is important, we need look no further than how renewable resources like wind performed during recent severe weather events.

Last summer, the weekend of August 10 was extremely hot and humid. Demand for electricity spiked but for several days in a row there was virtually no wind generation in the entire MISO area. Uninterrupted electricity was available only because fossil fuel power plants could be called upon and dispatched at will.

In late January, a few weeks ago, we experienced life-threatening weather extremes of polar vortex. The demand for electricity spiked as the temperatures plummeted. Unfortunately, the amount of electricity generated from wind turbines also plummeted. Over MISO's 15 state footprint, wind generation was only able to supply about a quarter of its potential output during this polar vortex. Xcel's wind farms in ND and MN shut down automatically when it got too cold for them to operate overnight on January 29 until noon the next day. Uninterrupted electricity was available during the life-threatening weather conditions only because of fossil fuel power plants that could be dispatched at will.

We cannot afford to adopt an unproven and risky mandate — in the hopes that new technology will be developed “just in time” to retain the affordable, reliable and sustainable electric grid we depend upon every day of our lives.

In summary, we asked our legislators to vote “no” on various bills which call for higher RES mandates.

- MN's Cooperatives are continuing to diversify our portfolios and using an “all-of-the-above” approach. We are already moving forward with higher levels of renewable energy resources.
- The current approach provides flexibility to retain legacy plants as debt is retired, and, ensures grid reliability.
- As our industry incorporates ever greater amounts of renewable energy resource technologies into our portfolio, we need a balanced “all of the above” generation portfolio approach to maintain the affordability, reliability and sustainability of our national electric grid.

Annual Meeting — Please join us for the annual meeting and lunch on April 9 at the Hutchinson Event Center. I promise we won't be as long winded as this month's column and Chef Craig will have a nice lunch for us after we're done!

Proud to keep your lights on,
Carrie

Check out the Electric Room at the Twin Cities Auto Show March 9-17

Electric vehicles, with zero emissions, are the greenest vehicles in the market and the Twin Cities Auto Show is featuring this technology in the Electric Room. The Electric Room is your destination for the latest in electric and hybrid vehicles. Learn more about the growing list of cars powered by electricity!



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

Electrifying Attractions:

- The latest in cutting edge technology with electric charging
- Chat with local electric vehicle owners
- 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.

For details visit twincitiesautoshow.com

Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 21

Members residing in Districts 7, 8, & 9 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 21. 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 before April 9, 2019.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 21.

**McLeod Cooperative Power Association
ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE
Hutchinson Event Center, April 9, 2019**

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center.....	8:30 A.M.
Music by Lyndon Peterson One-Man Band.	8:50 A.M.
Meeting Called to Order	10:00 A.M.
Invocation	Dave Resch, Director
National Anthem.....	All Rise and Sing, Music by Lyndon Peterson
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 2018 Annual Meeting	Doug Kirtz, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Dist 7, 8, & 9.....	Keith Peterson, President
Introduction of Directors in Districts 1-6.....	Keith Peterson, President
Financial Report	Susan Noyes, Manager of Finance
Closing of Ballots.....	Keith Peterson, President
Manager's Report.....	Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager
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	Gerald Roepke, 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

Summary of Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22 and of the Special Board Meeting of February 12, 2019 were approved.

The Line Superintendent reported DG Energy Testing completing annual testing on all protective grounds, hot sticks, sleeves, rubber gloves, and cover up material. He updated the board on the January outage report and outage responses during a recent storm.

The Customer Service Manager updated the board on annual meeting plans and an EV Ride and Drive event scheduled for Thursday, May 2 at the Crow River Winery.

The Annual Cogen Report, which summarizes generation by each type of DG Interconnected load for calendar year 2018, was reviewed.

Revisions to Policy 4-22 Cogeneration/Distributed Energy Resources Policy were approved so the Co-op will comply with the new State of Minnesota rules for Cogeneration and Distributed Energy Resources for the interconnection of qualifying facilities to the Cooperative's distribution system. This policy will go into effect for all Cogeneration and Distributed Energy Resource customer applications received on or after April 1, 2019. A resolution on Cogeneration & Small Power Production was approved, adopting Cooperative Minnesota Distribution Energy Resource Interconnection Process (C-MIP) effective April 1, 2019. The Annual Cogen Filing including Schedules 1-4 was approved.

The board approved the slate of candidates submitted by the 2019 Nominating Committee for elections in Districts 7, 8, and 9.

The Asst. Customer Service Manager announced that the Co-op will once again host the Play Ball Minnesota Youth Clinic, in partnership with the Arlington Baseball Association, on July 13. The co-op will also sponsor a Twins game day event/bus trip for members on June 27.

The IT Manager shared that the AVL to Outage Map update has been completed. This allows someone who is dispatching outages to be able to have one piece of software open and see restored and current outages on the system map with truck/crew locations updated in real-time all in one piece of software.

The Manager of Finance presented the 2018 Year End Financial Report, the Operating Statement, and Balance Sheet for the month of January 2019 for review.

Consent agenda items approved: December Financial Report on File for Audit, December General Fund Checks, Transfer of Patronage Capital & Refund of Patronage Capital to Estates, December New & Rescinded Memberships, and work order inventories

The Board went into Executive Session for a short time to discuss strategic business issues.

The board authorized the General Manager to procure bids, as needed, for portions of the new building project. A resolution was approved for the New Combined Facility Lot Purchase Price of \$211,000.

The general manager and GRE board representative updated the MCPA Board on items of interest from Great River Energy meetings.

Load Management does its job during polar vortex

The demand response programs of Great River Energy's distribution cooperatives played a critical role in the response to the extreme weather the end of January. From January 29-31 the polar vortex tested the strength of the regional power grid.

On Jan. 29, Great River Energy dispatched dual fuel and peak-shave water heaters which resulted in demand reduction of 359 megawatts.

The cooperative also dispatched full load control including all interruptible commercial and industrial generators on Jan. 30. This load control event resulted in a record demand

reduction of 459 megawatts. Over the course of the two-day cold weather event, Great River Energy realized estimated load management impacts of 3,112 megawatt-hours. This also helped the cooperative avoid additional real-time purchases from the energy market.

McLeod Cooperative Power appreciates its members who participate in water heating, space heating, and Dual Fuel programs. Your load control participation helps the grid maintain stability during extreme demands. It also helps reduce energy purchase costs for our cooperative and our power supplier.

Notice to Cogenerators

In compliance with McLeod Cooperative Power Association's adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, McLeod Cooperative Power Association is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. McLeod Cooperative Power Association is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the McLeod Cooperative Power Association Board. Interested members should contact McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 1231 Ford Ave. N., P.O. Box 70, Glencoe MN 55336 or call 1-800-494-6272.

Power Line Worker Scholarship deadline April 15



A scholarship is available for someone enrolling in a power line worker program at a Minnesota vocational college. One \$500 scholarship is available through the Cooperative.

Application forms are available by calling 1.800.494.6272 or visit www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/. High school seniors looking for a career choice may want to study the Power Line Worker career brochure.

New distributed energy interconnection process effective April 1, 2019

The McLeod Cooperative Power Board of Directors has adopted Cooperative Minnesota Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection Process (C-MIP). It will take effect for all applications for interconnection of distributed generation received on or after April 1, 2019.

All of the utilities in the state are required to adopt and begin using an updated interconnection process in 2019. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and multiple stakeholder groups worked on revising the interconnection process and interconnection agreements during 2017-2018. Additional technical requirements will be completed later this year.

The C-MIP has a simplified process, a fast track process, and a study process. The process an applicant will follow will depend upon the size capacity of the equipment. Applications can be moved to a different track if they fail one or more of the flow chart screens on their initial track. Simplified process is for certified inverter-only systems 20 kW AC or smaller in size. Fast track will be for all types of interconnections 5 MW AC or smaller. Large

commercial projects follow the study process.

Process fee for filing a Simplified application will be \$100. Fast track certified system will be \$100 plus \$1 per kW and non-certified \$100 plus \$2 per kW. Study track applications are \$1,000 plus \$2 per kW down payment and additional study fees may apply. Each system will be assessed an Interconnection Charge of \$585 prior to final interconnection to cover the Co-op's expenses for metering, billing, and system witness testing. The member is also responsible for the actual cost of any facility upgrades that may be required to accommodate the addition of their generation system to the grid.

Any member contemplating the installation of solar, wind, storage or some combination of distributed generation should contact the Co-op for details and access to applications prior to April 1, if your plan is to apply after April 1, 2019. Current rules and application forms remain in place until April 1 and are available on the Co-op's website. New forms and an electronic application portal will be available after April 1 on McLeod Co-op Power's website for C-MIP applicants.

There is an electric vehicle for almost everybody

Electric vehicles (EVs) are no longer a transportation option of the future. They're here, now, available to lease or purchase — and there is likely one that fits the bill for your lifestyle. Whether you're a commuter who enjoys the occasional trip up to the North Shore or someone who stays close to home, there are enough options today to suit every kind of driver.



Weekday commuter

If you're the type of person who travels to work five days a week and makes a few extra trips per week around the city to check out a museum, concert or just go grocery shopping, a switch to the all-electric 2019 Nissan Leaf makes the most sense for you.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, it takes an average of 21 minutes for Minnesotans who commute via car or truck — which makes up about 80 percent of workers in the state — to get to their job. This model of Leaf offers 150 miles of range, meaning you wouldn't need to recharge every day just to make it to and from the office.

If you wanted to, though, you could plug it right into a 240-volt charger (similar to kind of circuit your clothes dryer uses) overnight and it would be fully charged and ready to go in the morning. This EV is a practical option for a practical person — no expertise with EVs necessary to fully enjoy the ride. It's also reasonably priced with the full \$7,500 federal tax incentive: \$22,490.



Weekend road-tripper

Let's say you are that same type of 9-to-5 commuter but would prefer a car that can take you even farther on one charge. Try the 2019 Chevy Bolt, which boasts an all-electric range of 238 miles and a price tag of \$29,995 after the full federal tax credit is applied.

You could get through a regular work week with only plugging in your EV once, and would be able to drive straight from the office to the grocery store and to the kids' hockey game without worrying about whether you'll drain the battery.

If you do find yourself needing to get a quick charge in while you're away from home, there are more than 200 public charging stations available throughout Minnesota at locations such as workplaces, restaurants and retail stores. You can add about 90 miles to your Bolt when plugged into a DC fast charger station, which are designed to charge EVs quickly and can be found in spots from Mankato to the metro and all the way up to Hinckley.



Off-roader

If you're the average commuter who likes to take regular trips up north and are still wary about making a full switch from gasoline to electric, the 2018 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) may be the best compromise.

This hybrid SUV gets 310 miles of range total with 22 of those being all-electric, and it is the only PHEV compatible with DC fast chargers. This means you can feel confident in getting all the way to your favorite long-weekend destination, even Minnesota's North Shore. In 2018, several fast charger stations were installed along I-35 and Highway 61, opening up this family-favorite destination to those with a plug-in vehicle. With your Outlander PHEV, you'll have plenty of cargo space to store camping and hiking gear, snacks and more — along with 1,500 pounds of towing capacity so you can bring along bicycles, kayaks or even a pop-up camper. This vehicle is eligible for a federal tax incentive of \$5,836, bringing its cost to \$28,759.

McLeod Co-op Power has a low-cost overnight off-peak charging program/rate available and a \$500 rebate to help cover the cost of a 240-volt charger and off-peak wiring. Additional options include Great River Energy's Revolt Program where members with an electric vehicle can get a free upgrade to wind energy for all the electricity used to charge their EV. Call the Co-op today for details on incentives if you are an EV owner or are seriously considering an EV purchase.

EV Ride & Drive Event

May 2nd at the Crow River Winery

We are planning an event where members can come out to learn about electric vehicles (EVs), take them for a test drive, talk to EV owners, talk to co-op employees about metering and incentive programs. Our event is being coordinated with Midwest EVOLVE, Twin Cities Clean Cities Coalition/American Lung Association, and Great River Energy. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 2 from 3:30-6:00 PM at the Crow River Winery, east of Hutchinson.

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

For Sale Miscellaneous

- 7 ft snow bucket. 320-582-1534
- Small shack for kid's playhouse or bus shelter. 320-582-1534
- Butcher pigs for sale. We haul to Hector Meats. 320-583-2523
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 1998 Polaris Indy Lite Deluxe. Great shape. \$995. 320-510-0404
- 6 in Jiffy ice auger. \$55. 320-485-2246
- 5 railroad lanterns. \$20-\$80. 320-587-8784
- Delta 10 in table saw. 320-587-4550
- OSB panels 32 in X 32 in X 7/16 in. \$1/each. 952-353-2351
- Antique dining-room table, 1 leaf, 5 chairs. 320-587-6413/after 7 pm

For Sale Farm

- 225 Bushel gravity box. 320-582-1534
- Dura-Built round bale feeder. 507-964-5683
- Holding tank. 507-964-5683
- Loftness snow blower. 507-964-5683

Wanted

- Brooder house on skids. 320-979-3580

Giveaway

- Free Piano. 320-510-0404
- Lowry Magic Genie organ with bench. 320-395-4207
- Two sections 4 ft metal shelves 52" h. You take apart 763-227-7198

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.

Get your FREE MN State Parks map



Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have again partnered with the State of Minnesota Parks and Trails on sponsorship and distribution of the 2019-20 Map and Visitor Guide. Free maps are available to MCPA members in the Co-op office.

The colorful maps feature all of Minnesota’s trails and parks on the map, a list of camping, lodging, and recreation facilities at each park, and a list of online resources to check out before you visit a state park. Minnesota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have been marketing partners with the state parks for many years and work together to promote use of the parks to our members.

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

35 ft.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

!!!!

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you’re using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!



It is very important that you contact the Co-op for your free net-metering info packet before you start shopping for a solar or wind system. Educational materials on the interconnection of renewable energy systems can be mailed or e-mailed to you at no charge upon request. Many renewable resource documents are available on the Co-ops website.

The State of Minnesota has standardized rules for all consumers who plan to own or operate any distributed generation facilities (like solar or wind). Whether you are doing one solar panel

on the side of your barn or a big wind turbine, the rules and requirements by the state to ensure safe interconnection and operation are very similar. The Cooperative can provide you with the most up-to-date policies and requirements for installing renewable energy.

It is important that you have the most current information so that you can ask all the necessary questions when researching a renewable product or installer and understand the requirements for interconnection.

January 2019 Outage Summary

January had 29 outages, affecting 109 consumers. The three outages affecting the most members all occurred on Wednesday, January 30 and were caused by the extreme cold temperatures. An outage west of Lester Prairie affected 26 members and they were back on in less than one hour. Twenty-two members north of Hutchinson were without power for about two hours. Fifteen members west of Hector were out of power for just under three hours.

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.

Cheap electronic charges spell trouble

The chargers that came with our phone, digital camera or other electronics seem to disappear as often as a sock mate sometimes.

As a solution, many people reach for the low-cost, generic plug-in USB chargers and charging cables found in the sea of impulse items that flank the check-out line at your favorite drug, convenience or big-box store. They're also popular items on numerous online shopping sites and cheaper than dishing out money to replace them with their original maker's versions.

It can save money and it's so convenient, you rationalize. Without much more thought, in the virtual cart or on the counter it goes.

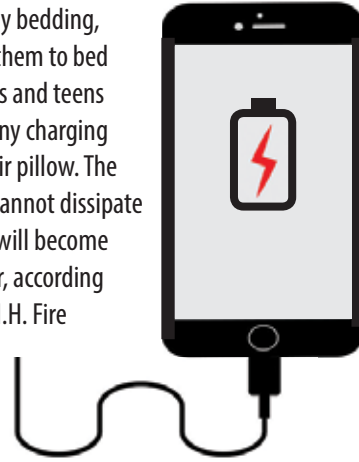
Inexpensive charging components may be one area you don't want to cut corners on, however, for a variety of reasons. Amazon recalled 26,000 AmazonBasics portable lithium-ion battery chargers and power banks after the massive online retailer learned the units can overheat and ignite, causing fire and burn hazards. According to the U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission, the products were sold between December 2014 and July 2017.

Along with being a potential fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can also cause electrocution. Dangers aside, they may cost you more in the long run since they can cause damage to whatever's on the other end of the cable.

To keep safe around electrical devices and charging gear, Safe Electricity recommends the following:

- Do not leave items that are charging unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable

objects, especially bedding, and do not take them to bed with you. Tell kids and teens to NEVER place any charging device under their pillow. The heat generated cannot dissipate and the charger will become hotter and hotter, according to the Newton, N.H. Fire Department. This could lead to the pillow or bed catching fire.



- Do not touch charging electronic devices with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables (those made or certified by the manufacturer). Using cheaper devices can cause damage to the USB charge chip. Although it's tempting to save money, this can have a lasting impact on how quickly and effectively your device charges in the future.
- The bottom line is this: Don't buy charging equipment with prices that seem too good to be true or from companies you've never heard of. And even if you've heard of the company, be leery of fakes. In 2016, Apple sued a company that sold counterfeit wall chargers with Apple's name on them for less than \$10 each.

Say yes to the Milky Way in the check-out line or to the online Kindle book and no to cheap chargers.



Join our North Dakota Energy Tour July 17-19

The Co-op will be hosting a three-day motor coach tour July 17-19, 2019 to North Dakota. The tour will include Coal Creek Station generating plant, Falkirk coal mine, Blue Flint ethanol plant, Garrison Dam fish hatchery, North Dakota Heritage Center, and a drive-by tour of Garrison hydro dam. A stop in Jamestown, North Dakota, includes the world's largest buffalo statue, live buffalo herd and Frontier Village.

Cost is \$250 per person for adult Co-op members and \$150 per person for those under 18 sharing a room with their parents or grandparents. Cost includes motor coach transportation, two nights at the Staybridge Suites hotel with pool and amenities, and most meals. Call the Co-op to make your reservation or request a brochure. The information is also available on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com at the bottom of the homepage under Community News.

Members participating in the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a significant amount of walking. Children must be ten years or older to go along on the trip.

Don't be left in the cold (or dark), when a storm blows through and causes a power outage.

Plan ahead. Install an automatic generator system. McLeod Co-op Power offers turn-key sales, installation, and maintenance service of Briggs & Stratton automatic standby generator systems.

Call the Co-op for a cost estimate today at 1-800-494-6272.



STANDBY GENERATORS

Profiles of Director Candidates for District 7, 8, & 9

The Nominating Committee met its requirements to select two candidates in each district, whose names shall appear on the ballot for Districts 7, 8, & 9

District 7 includes:

Hutchinson and Hale Townships in McLeod County, and Collinwood Township in Wright County.



Randy Hlavka

Randy is the current director for District 7. He is a retired Minnesota Class A Master Electrician.

Randy grew up on a dairy farm in Rich Valley Township. He raised his children in Hutchinson Township and Hutchinson schools. Now, he and his wife Jenny, live on a farm in Hale Township. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

Randy has served as Elder at the Faith Presbyterian Church. He is a U.S. Navy veteran and has served as Commander of Silver Lake Legion. He is a member and hamburger/onion fryer for the Silver Lake Sportsman's Club.

Randy stated, "I enjoy being on the MCPA Board, working with the staff and other Directors, and I am very appreciative of the Board's trust in placing me on the GRE Board. I take my vote on both boards seriously and always look at the effect it will have on members."

Randy explained that this is really an exciting time with all the new legislators at the state and federal level, their ideas on renewable energy and when to implement it. "I'm all for clean renewable energy, but it has to make sense and be cost comparable and WORK! There is nothing worse than extremely hot or cold days that don't have favorable wind or sun for energy production and leaving members in the elements. We need coal to carry the baseload until science can eliminate it. It's coming, just not there yet," stated Randy.



Leon G. Johnson

Leon will be retiring this spring, after a 45-year career with 3M. He currently serves as 3M Corporate Plant Engineering Global Excellence and Energy Manager, based out of 3M's St. Paul Headquarters. He was a Plant Engineering Manager at the Hutchinson facility from 2004-2013. He will soon have the time to serve on a local board, and he determined McLeod Co-op would be a good organization to become involved with.

His education includes an Associate Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology and a bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering. He also maintains a Class A Master Electrical license.

Leon and his wife, Patricia, have one daughter and 10 grandchildren. The Johnsons lived in Hutchinson for nine years. They became MCPA members when they moved to Hutchinson Township in March of 2018.

Leon has served as a Hutchinson Utility Commission member and is a past Novation Credit Union Supervisory Committee member. He is currently involved with 3M Gives, which supplements technical education.

If elected as a director, Leon suggested, "My contribution would be in maintaining the cost-effective power the MCPA provides while keeping an eye on the future for sustainable renewable energy and the possibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions." He added, "It is important to understand the path forward towards renewable energy and the timelines it will take to achieve affordable renewable energy. Many factors exist in understanding where we receive our current power whether from hydro, nuclear, coal, natural gas, wind or solar, all these sources have their place and time in our portfolio of power provided to our customers."

District 8 includes:

Martinsburg, Wellington, and Bandon Townships in Renville County; Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, and Alfsborg Townships in Sibley County; and Collins and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.



Keith Peterson

Keith is the owner of E & K Farms, Inc. in Martinsburg Township, south of Hector. He is a graduate of Hector High School and the University of Minnesota with a degree in agronomy and animal science. Keith is a grain farmer growing corn, soy beans and sweet corn.

Keith's wife, Sandy, is a nurse and they had five daughters and have eight grandchildren.

Keith is an active member of the Hector Lions and formerly served on the Hector school board, the local elevator board, Swedlanda Church Council and was a township supervisor. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and doing things with his family.

Keith is the incumbent director in District 8 and he currently serves as president of the MCPA Board. Keith said, "I would like to continue to serve as your director and continue to keep electricity both economical and reliable, while keeping abreast of the ever-changing industry and its challenges."



Todd Trebelhorn

Todd lives near Winthrop, in Bismarck Township in Sibley County. He and his wife, Donna, are raising four children/step-children, ages 9-20. They operate Countryside Farms, where Todd raises beef, and grows corn, soy beans and sweet corn. He also

plows snow and grades roads for the township. Previously, he was a driver for C & L Distributing.

Todd is a graduate of GFW and the Ridgewater College welding program.

Todd is active as a youth leader, mission trip chaperone, and usher at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Arlington. He is a volunteer on the Sibley-East after-prom committee. He is a member of the FSA County Committee and currently serves as its chairman.

"As a farmer with a young family, I would like to make sure energy costs remain affordable now and into the future," said Todd. "I would also like to work with the other board members to brainstorm incentives we can offer industries to attract them to locate in McLeod Co-op Power service territory," added Todd.

District 9 includes:

Young America, Camden, and Watertown Townships in Carver County.



Susan Anderson

Susan Anderson attained her bachelors degree and Juris Doctor (JD) degree from the University of Illinois. Susan worked as a corporate lawyer; with experience in banking, railroad, and regulated industries. After retiring from law, she managed a specialty auto repair shop with her husband Keith.

Susan has worked for two food co-ops, including Harvest Moon Natural Food Co-op in Long Lake, where she was Grocery Manager and then became Interim General Manager. She served in that capacity, overseeing store operations until December 2018.

Susan and her husband Keith, have lived south of New Germany, in Camden Township, for nearly 23 years. Keith is a retired auto mechanic and is now a full-time farmer. They raise sheep and chickens, and have a few other animals. Susan enjoys beekeeping, gardening, and cooking. She has a passion for visiting food co-ops. Their family includes one daughter and two grandchildren.

The Andersons are participants in MCPA's Community Solar Garden and have relied on the expertise of MCPA in managing the energy needs of their farm and home.

"I have been impressed with the direction that MCPA has taken over the years- both in cost control for members and energy efficiency and conservation," said Susan. "MCPA is a well run and responsible organization that is clearly committed to its membership and its community. I would be proud to be a part of that mission."



Steven Simpson

Steven is a native of Minnesota and currently resides in Mayer with his wife Jenna, where they are looking to establish family roots. In their spare time, Steven and Jenna are frequent volunteers of local community theater productions.

Steven is a Program Manager for Arconic machining and integrated structures, which serves commercial aerospace aluminum products. He is responsible in managing customer programs for financial health, stability and achieving financial targets. Steven's career also includes additional roles in the aerospace and defense industries managing multi-million dollar supply chains, programs and factory production lines.

Steven holds a Master's in Business Administration from Bethel University and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a minor in Economics from Metropolitan State University.

"I would like to offer my experience in financial management and lean manufacturing principles to the Co-op as an MCPA director," said Steven. "I would ensure the optimization of the Co-op's resources to maintain and improve our high standards of power availability." In addition, he would like to work with the board to identify new improvement opportunities that are aligned with Co-op member's desires for efficient operations and affordable electricity.