



McLeod Co-op Power breaks ground on new combined facility in Glencoe East Industrial Park. Pictured (l to r) MCPA General Manager Carrie Buckley, and MCPA Board Members Susan Anderson, Gary Burdorf, Allan Duesterhoeft, Keith Peterson, Randy Hlavka, Dave Resch, and Doug Kirtz. (Directors Joe Griebie and Oria Brinkmeier were unable to attend).



Photo of all participants in McLeod Co-op Power groundbreaking.

# Historic Day! McLeod Co-op Power breaks ground on new building



MCPA General Manager Carrie Buckley said a few words to recap the process. Below is a rendering of the new facility.



After nearly 70 years in its current office and garage in Glencoe, McLeod Co-op Power broke ground for a new building that will bring its garage, warehouse, office, and pole yard onto one central site. The Co-op held a groundbreaking ceremony at its future home in Glencoe's East Industrial Park on July 25. The new office will be at 3515 11th Street East, (which is one block north of the former Shopko store in Glencoe).

The McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors, employees on the building committee, dignitaries from the City of Glencoe, representatives from Brunton Architects, the Tegra Group, and the construction manager Adolfson & Peterson Construction gathered for the short groundbreaking ceremony. General Manager Carrie Buckley and MCPA Board President Keith Peterson each said a few words to recap the process it has taken to get the Co-op to be moving forward with a new building and to thank those who worked hard on the planning process. Construction at the ten-acre site will hopefully start in early August.

McLeod Co-op Power's new 52,000 square-foot building will include 40,000 sq. ft. of garage and warehouse space and 12,000 sq. ft. for the office. The pre-cast concrete building will include a multi-purpose board room that can also be used

for employee meetings or training. Construction cost of the building came in at \$9.2 million. Final cost of the project for the Co-op is not yet known, as the sale of the Co-op's existing office, garage and warehouse building, parking lot, and pole yard property will all help offset the project cost and the Co-op has some specific owner costs outside of the construction cost. The Co-op has also been saving for this project.

The Co-op has been discussing construction of a new facility for almost 20 years. It had been finding creative ways to fit 21st century-size bucket trucks into a 1950s garage for many years. Three years ago, McLeod Co-op Power undertook a Facility Master Plan project to determine whether to remodel the existing office and warehouse building or construct a new facility. Adolfson & Peterson were competitively selected at that time to lead the Co-op through that study of the Co-op's needs, and along with Brunton Architects of North Mankato have worked with the Co-op's board and management over those three years to make this new combined facility a reality.

If construction goes well, McLeod Co-op Power hopes to move into its new facility by September of 2020. The Co-op employees will welcome a building big enough to accommodate its trucks and equipment. The accessible access (no steps) and drive-up payment box will be easier for members.

## July 28 tornado only causes two Co-op outages

Although funnel clouds weaved from Biscay to Silver Lake on July 28, they miraculously only knocked out power to two MCPA members. Those members both live east of Silver Lake in Hale Township.

The Co-op worked on making repairs to power feeding those two services and getting them temporary power, but more permanent repairs to fully repair their secondary service damage were required by their electricians.

## In this issue...

- Electric bus fleet manufactured in St. Cloud ..... 5
- Entertainment and video chatting for your pets ..... 7
- Kids play ball at Twins clinic.. 8

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



### Wind and Baseball

**Wind** The Board tried something different for the June 25th meeting. We had a board meeting on a bus! We took a field trip to the Trimont Wind Farm and Great River Energy's (GRE) Lakefield Junction Station.



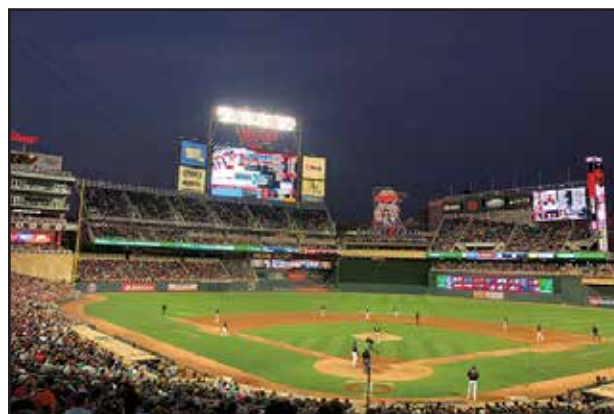
Director education in the electric cooperative industry is very important for sound decision making and we encourage all kinds of training from the NRECA and MREA classroom to the annual facility inspections our directors do with our Operations Superintendent after each annual meeting. Since more than 60% of our revenue goes toward our wholesale power costs, education at the generation and transmission level is important too; choosing Trimont Wind Farm and GRE's Lakefield Junction Station was an easy choice for board day since it was only a two-hour trip from Glencoe.

Trimont Wind Farms supplies GRE with 100 Megawatts of wind and the sixty-seven, 1.5 Megawatt each, wind turbines were impressive! The farm spanned about eleven miles from Trimont to I-90. The plant manager introduced us to the plant employees who were almost all local. It was heartwarming to see these employee's passion for their work and the pride displayed from their contribution to reduced environmental impact of energy production.

Lakefield Junction Station is a 495 MegaWatt GRE Peaking plant of six simple-cycle turbines fueled by the co-located natural gas distribution station. Its location next to Xcel's switching station was

quite strategic for the transmission side. The Trimont wind farm was located there after the Peaking plant was constructed. Between the wind turbines, 345 kV transmission lines, switching station and six generators, it was an illuminating lesson on power supply!

**Baseball** One of the many things I love about Minnesota is Minnesota's love of baseball. America's favorite pastime is in full display here, not only with the incredible town ball in our service territory, but surely with the Minnesota Twins. Wanting to share our mutual love of baseball, this year we attended a Minnesota Twins game on June 27, 2019 with members, employees and directors. Our seats were perfectly located for the group — a convenient escalator up to the second level, only a few steps down to our seats, and a fantastic view of the



ball field from the first base side. We had a great time at the game for all 18 innings. Yes you read that correctly; 9 extra innings! It was a good game just maybe a little long, but we did get our money's worth this year. Our previous member Twins game was rained out for five hours, so we like to think of this "double header" as making up for that lack of a game. We also heard back from members that they had a good time and would like to do it again. This is definitely a fun member event we will be repeating in the future. GO TWINS!!!!

Play Ball Minnesota: McLeod Cooperative Power Association, Great River Energy, and the Arlington Baseball Association hosted the 2019 Play Ball Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic in Arlington on Saturday July 13th. We had about 50 boys and girls at the camp on Saturday. The clinic was focused on hitting, fielding, and throwing through quality hands on instruction. We gave the kids a choice of a regulation baseball or a rubber baseball stamped with McLeod's logo. Locher Brothers Distributing donated bottled water at the event for all who needed a cold drink. We are proud to help promote the fine tradition of Minnesota baseball through our sponsorship of this youth event.

MRET and Baseball - Minnesota Rural Electric Trust (MRET) is our Worker's Compensation Insurance provider. It is comprised of eighteen Minnesota Electric Cooperatives and like our electric co-op, it conducts an annual meeting complete with attendance prize. This year's prize was two tickets to the July 20 Twins game against the Oakland A's. It was my lucky day because I was the Grand Prize winner. My husband and I enjoyed a perfect July evening at the ballpark, not too hot, not too humid.

What a fun way to enjoy summer, a field trip to a wind farm and baseball. I am forever thankful to this co-op and you members for the opportunity to live here.

Proud to keep your lights on, Carrie

### 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 - Susan Anderson, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer, 20valve90@gmail.com

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

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

### McLeod Cooperative Power News

USPS 2220  
Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Hutchinson, MN  
POSTMASTER: Send address  
changes to  
McLeod Cooperative Power News  
P O Box 70, Glencoe, MN  
55336-0070

The **McLeod Cooperative Power News** is published monthly for \$4.72 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe, MN  
55336-0070

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.

#### **Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
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Fax: 320-864-4850  
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.

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS		
Through June	2019	2018
Operating Revenue	\$ 9,760,331	\$ 9,824,949
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 5,817,869	\$ 5,838,674
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,845,891	\$ 3,905,680
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 9,663,760	\$ 9,744,354
Operating Margins	\$ 96,571	\$ 80,595
Non Operating Margins	\$ 243,071	\$ 170,243
Total Margins	\$ 339,642	\$ 250,838
kWh's Sold	79,464,455	79,966,385
Member Services Billed	6,842	6,766
Avg kWh Used, Residential/Month	1,459	1,475

No checks in **pink** ink —  
just black or **blue** will do

**P**lease use **blue** or **black** ink when writing checks for your monthly payments. Using other colors of ink may result in having your check be rejected by our check processing company. So please remember that only black or blue ink will do. Thank you for your cooperation.



### Office closed Labor Day

McLeod Cooperative Power’s office will be closed Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

Emergency and outage dispatchers are on duty 24 hours a day and can be reached by calling 1-800-927-5685.

### Board and management working on rewrite of bylaws

A subcommittee of the MCPA Board of Directors, along with a team of the Co-op managers and attorney, have started a review process of the Co-op’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The plan is to work on proposed language changes to update the bylaws before the end of the year and then have the full board approve a draft document with redline changes that are proposed. Those changes would be made available to members on the website and in the newsletter. Members would also be sent a copy of the proposed changes in the mail with a ballot to vote upon whether to approve the updated document. To make changes to the

Articles of Incorporation or ByLaws, a 2/3 affirmative vote of all the members casting a ballot is required to amend or alter the documents.

It has been almost 20 years since any changes were made to these documents. They are the guiding principles of your Cooperative. In the past two decades technology and laws and terminology have changed, requiring some updates to take place.

Members can look forward to seeing the proposed updates next spring before the Annual Meeting.

### Meet the people behind your power

I do my best to meet the needs of the members and provide them with personal service. I’m always happy to educate members on programs that would be beneficial to them.

**Bob Thomes**  
Asst. Customer Service Manager

Chamber of Commerce Member  
Youth athletic coach  
Church and community volunteer

### SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, July 25, 2019

The MCPA Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 25, 2019 and the minutes of the July 16, 2019 Special Meeting; wherein the board approved an updated construction budget of \$9.2 million for the new and combined facility.

Line Superintendent reviewed the outage report for the month of June 2019 and gave the monthly Operations/Engineering Report. Paperwork is being completed to submit a claim to FEMA for the April 11 storm. Safety report was approved.

Resolution 2019-07-01 Certification of Authority for Easements and Permits was approved.

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Rating Summary was reviewed with the Board. This is an audit of the outside operations. This review is conducted every three to four years.

The addition of a 40-watt LED rental yard light to the rate schedule was approved.

Board approved Resolution 2019-07-04 Application of DG Grid Access Fee to Replacement CoGeneration and Small Power Production Facilities installed before March 1, 2016. Resolution clarifies when a DG Grid Access Fee will or will not be applied to net-metering accounts interconnected before the DG Grid Access Fee was put into effect. This affects grandfathered-in qualified facilities increasing their kW capacity or changing to a new generation source.

The Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the month of June 2019 was reviewed.

Eide Bailey, the Co-op’s auditor, reviewed the Form 990 with the board via teleconference.

The Audit Committee reported on their review of the June expenditures. Consent agenda items approved included: June Financial Report on File for Audit, acceptance of June General Fund Checks and New & Rescinded Memberships, and approval of Transfer of Patronage Capital & Refund of Patronage Capital to Estates, and work order inventories.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss legal issues and the collective bargaining agreement. Regular meeting was reconvened.

Resolution 2019-07-02 was approved, instructing the Co-op’s Great River Energy (GRE) representative to vote in favor of a Wind Energy Purchase Agreement by GRE.

General Manager Buckley recently attended GRE Annual Strategic Planning Session.

Manager Buckley has been appointed to the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Leadership Group. The group includes both Directors and Co-op CEO’s seeking to improve the cooperative governance model.

The board’s GRE representative reported on the Great River Energy activities for the past month.

With no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss strategic business issues. Executive session was adjourned and the regular session was reconvened.

The MCPA Board authorized the General Manager to negotiate the sale of the existing facilities on the terms and conditions approved by the Board.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov



## Attention All Storage Heat and Storage Water Heating Participants:

### *Charging hours are set to change starting in October*

All storage heating and water heating loads have historically received a charge from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. This is changing beginning in October to a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. charge time. This will affect water heaters, Steffes storage furnaces, room storage units, and under-slab storage heating systems. This one-hour shift is not temporary but long-term.

The one-hour shift will help the Co-ops and our power supplier Great River Energy avoid 7 a.m. transmission system peaks, which are occurring more frequently. It will provide significant financial savings and help us lower transmission costs.

### We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs



Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you - our members!



When the power goes out  
and it keeps raining,

I won't need these  
in my basement.

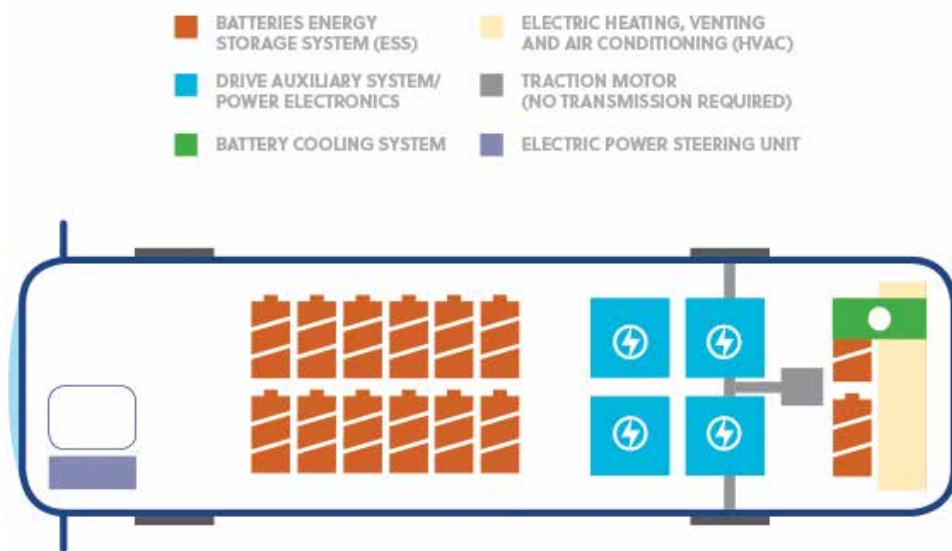


**My sump pump is powered by an automatic generator from McLeod Co-op Power.**

McLeod Co-op Power sells and installs automatic home generator systems by Briggs & Stratton. An automatic generator will operate your sump pump, furnace fan, lights, refrigerators and freezers, and other important appliances even when you are not home. Call McLeod Co-op Power for more information 1-800-494-6272.



# New electric bus fleets manufactured right here in Minnesota



You may have heard that Metro Transit adopted plans to one day have all of its buses in the Twin Cities be powered by electricity. They have already ordered 60 of the articulated electric buses. Just like other cities across the U.S., they are making a move away from diesel-powered buses. Metro Transit took delivery of its first eight buses earlier this summer and is working them into its fleet of 1,000 buses. In time, they expect more and more electric buses to replace the fossil fuel models as they are cleaner, quieter, and reduce pollution.

The buses are manufactured right here in central Minnesota at the New Flyer of America, Inc. plant in St. Cloud. In 2018, Metro Transit struck a \$12.5 million contract with the company to build the battery-powered buses and related charging equipment. New Flyer's St. Cloud plant churns out about 23 transit buses a week. The St. Cloud facility employs about 750 people, making it one of St. Cloud's largest private employers. It builds electric, diesel and natural gas buses for the nation's transportation industry.

New Flyer has other bus manufacturing plants in Crookston, MN and Indiana, Alabama, and Winnipeg. In total they produce about 50 buses a week. They manufacture plain buses for New York City, glitzy buses for Las Vegas, and dozens of other municipalities across the world. Their headquarters is in Winnipeg, Canada.

The St. Cloud plant is energized with electricity from another Minnesota rural electric cooperative which

also purchases its wholesale power from Great River Energy. A few of our co-op employees have had the opportunity to tour the plant and share photos of some of the buses being manufactured.

These buses are 60-foot "articulated" buses with wider aisles, more seating capacity and three doors so customers can get on and off quickly. All buses have new rear-facing, customer-operated securements for people using mobility devices. They also have free onboard Wi-Fi and USB ports.

The Xcelsior buses being manufactured for Metro Transit have zero emissions. They have a reduction of 100-160 tons of greenhouse gases per year compared to a 40-foot diesel bus. The electric motor emits very little external noise, making for a greater rider experience.

Being the new buses have no engine, transmission, intake or exhaust, bus owners can expect to save up to \$125,000 in maintenance costs over 12 years. They can also expect to save up to \$400,000 in fuel costs over the 12-year life of a bus. Actual charges will depend on regional energy costs and charging methods. The buses also have the highest passenger per mile fuel economy of any zero-emission vehicle.

Commercial buses are not the only application for electric technology. Electric school buses are starting to arrive in district garages and provide long term savings and safety for school districts and the children they transport.



A new bus in the early stages of manufacturing. Wiring and internal mechanisms are being installed.



A bus in the advanced stages of the assembly line in the St. Cloud facility.



More than half of the C Line buses used by Metro Transit are fully electric, completely eliminating tailpipe emissions. The Xcelsior CHARGE — battery-electric buses were manufactured in St. Cloud, Minnesota by New Flyer of America.

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 August 28 to be included in the September 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

☐ Wanted

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

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

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

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

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

For Sale Miscellaneous

- Family farm butcher pigs for sale. Sold whole/halves. 320-583-2523
- Quart canning jars wide mouth. \$3.50/dozen. 320-221-3151
- Quart canning jars regular mouth. \$3.00/dozen. 320-221-3151
- Singer class 99 sewing machine. Works great. \$50/bo. 320-587-0481
- Welding cable 1/0 copper 116 feet long. \$150. 320-455-1671
- 16ft Smoker Craft deep-well boat, #135 Mercury motor. \$4,200/offer. 320-238-2272
- Display cabinet 26in X 59in X 51in, glass doors and shelves. \$60. 507-647-5876
- 2017 camper C322BHS, 2 slides, great condition, clean. \$20,000/bo. 320-582-0156
- Steel roofing 10ft X 12ft length, good condition. Make offer. 320-583-5388
- Washer and electric dryer, good condition. \$100/each. 507-351-1855
- Older model tread mill, works well. \$50. 320-864-4389
- 1987 Harcraft camper for small truck, kept inside. 952-955-1195
- 1965 Chevy body 4 door HT. 320-587-0275
- 21ft Crestliner w/V8 engine. 320-587-0275
- 6ft dresser, 30in nightstand, distressed white. \$150. 320-420-2649
- Papillon puppies. 320-826-2531
- Two old hand corn shellers. 320-864-4376
- OSB panels 32in X 32in X 7/16in. \$1/each. 952-353-2351

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.

- 55-gallon steel drums w/removable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 549 International gas truck motor. 320-522-2167

For Sale Farm

- 2 Gandy applicators 10 H cement feed bunks 5ft X 8ft. 320-583-7360
- 20ft, 25ft, 30ft bale conveyors with motors. 320-587-4437
- Farm duty motor, 5hp 1740 rpm, 215TZ frame. \$250. 320-455-1671
- Gehl 970 14ft forage box w/10-ton wagon. 952-449-1008
- JD 5 belt dummy head. 952-449-1008
- JD2510 diesel tractor w/loader, good condition. 320-282-8000
- Alpacas for sale. 320-455-7218
- Boar cross goats. 320-455-7218
- 3 cattle panels, 3 hog panels, steel posts all sizes. 320-587-8836
- Bottle calves. Mixed/crosses available. 320-522-2181
- 1949 antique 77 Oliver, excellent condition. 320-864-3282

Wanted

- IH two point hook up equipment. Two point only. 320-979-3580



McLeod Co-op employees (l to r) Craig Marti, Dan Schade, Gregg Nistler, and Ryan Schuette played in the Minnesota Rural Electric Tournament to raise funds for the burn treatment centers in Minnesota.

MCPA participates in golf tournament to raise funds for MN Burn Centers

Four McLeod Co-op Power employees took vacation to volunteer a day to golf in the 14th Annual Burn Center Benefit on Friday, July 26th at the Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker. Over 215 Co-op employees, contractors, and vendors participated in the tourney.

Proceeds from the event go to the Hennepin Co. Medical Center Burn Unit, Regions Hospital Burn

Center, Essentia Health Miller Dwan Burn Center and the Rural Electric Coop Fund. The Golf tournament mission is to provide relief for burn victims in our coop family when they need it the most. The charity helps to support the three MN Burn Centers in providing the best treatment possible while they care for line workers after electrical contact accidents.

June 2019 Outage Summary

During June there were 173 outages reported on the Cooperative's system. Forty-three were due to a shed being moved on June 20, 25 were due to wind, and 21 were due to overhanging or dead trees.

The largest outage was on June 27 in Renville County. It was a result of a transmission system outage that interrupted power to the Hector, Preston Lake, and Brookfield Substations in Renville County, affecting 944 consumers. The outage started about 8:45 AM and lasted 27-57 minutes depending upon which substation consumers were fed from. Next largest cause of outages was the storm on June 4

which interrupted power across several counties.

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 power back on then outages when crews are already out working on the project.



# What will they think of next?

## Entertainment and video chatting for your pet

There are many new electric technology products coming on the market each week. There are several companies that now provide entertainment and engagement products for your four-legged friend while you're away. Some offer two-way audio and video cameras that allow you to basically Facetime with your cat or dog while you are away from home. You can watch what is going on at home and find out when they misbehave. You can see them, and they can see and hear you, when you call them.



One of the more creative products is PetChatz and its PawCall interactive accessory. It takes your remote connection to the next level. It is designed to work exclusively with the PetChatz HD Wifi two-way audio & video camera and treat dispenser. This unique and creative accessory features "Call Mode" which allows you to program specific times that you're available to receive a PetChatz call. If your dog or cat presses the button while it's flashing, you'll receive a notification that they are missing you and want to say hi. "Game Mode" can be programmed to make the button flash at specific



intervals; if they press the button while it's flashing, they will be rewarded with a delicious treat from the dispenser.

Additional features that pet owners can add to the video monitoring system and PawCall accessory are calming aromatherapy, broadcasts of DOGTV to entertain your pet while you are away, and smart video recording. They call all of this "Digital Daycare for the Home Alone Pet."

The unit mounts over an electric outlet and is connected to be safe for dogs with no electrical cords exposed. The Wi-fi connection makes wireless Bluetooth communication possible.

PetChatz retails for a few hundred dollars at Amazon and a variety of online retailers. PawCall and the other accessories are sold separately for an additional cost.

# Scammers have targeted McLeod County residents

A McLeod Co-op Power electric member received a SCAM phone call from someone demanding they make a money pack payment for nearly \$500 or their electricity would be shut off in less than an hour. The caller identified himself as being from Xcel Energy. When they were told the consumer received electric service from McLeod Co-op Power, the scammer told the consumer McLeod Co-op Power was a subsidiary of Xcel Energy; which is not true. The scammer proceeded to tell the co-op member to go to a specific convenience store in Hutchinson, and he provided the store's address.

They were to get a money pack envelope, pay with cash and when they had sent it, to call the number on the back of the envelope.

Fortunately, the consumer was not fooled by their demands and did not make any payment to the scammer. This is a reminder to members that the co-op does not call demanding you make an immediate untraceable cash payment or send money via money pack. Anytime you receive what you believe could be a SCAM call about your utility service, hang up and report your SCAM call to the Co-op office at 320-864-3148.



# High-Efficiency Appliance Rebates for 2019

Dehumidifiers.....	\$25
Dryers.....	\$25
Refrigerators & Freezer (Max of 2/year)	
Refrigerator harvest .....	\$25
Refrigerator w/recycling .....	\$25
Freezer harvest.....	\$25
Freezer with recycling .....	\$25
AC Tune Up (Max of 1 every 2 years) .....	\$25
Ductless ASHP .....	\$300
ECM (retrofit only) .....	\$50
GSHP (\$/ton) .....	\$400
QI ASHP	
SEER 14.5 .....	\$200
SEER 15 .....	\$400
SEER 16 .....	\$800
ETS Space Heat - per kW .....	\$50
ETS Water Heating	
100 gallon minimum capacity .....	\$400
Heat Pump Water Heater	
50 gallon minimum capacity .....	\$500
LED Yard Light.....	\$60

Swimming Pool	
ASHP .....	\$400
Pool Variable Speed Pump .....	\$200

## Electric Vehicle & Chargewise ..... \$500

This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial rebates. There is a \$2,500 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating and commercial grants/rebates have a \$5,000 maximum cap. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly.

Most downloadable rebate forms are on the Co-op's website [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification or other requirements.

Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a QUALITY INSTALLER and is listed on the [hvacreduction.net](http://hvacreduction.net) website. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) website. There are no rebates for central air conditioners. The Co-op encourages any member replacing a central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

LED yard lights must be installed on consumer owned building or facilities. Lights cannot be installed on Co-op power poles. Rebate for recycled refrigerator or freezer must be for removal of old but still operating unit from location served by MCPA, and receipt from recycler/appliance store showing proof of recycling required.

# Kids love to play baseball!



Approximately 50 youth from the area participated in the Playball! Minnesota youth baseball clinic at the Arlington ball park on Saturday, July 13. The event was hosted locally by the Arlington Baseball Association and McLeod Co-op Power, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. The Twins clinics are sponsored by the Twins Community Fund and Great River Energy.

A special thanks goes to the volunteers from the Arlington Baseball Association who helped with registration and on-the-field events. Water for the event (which was really needed in the July heat) was generously donated by Locher Bros. Distributing of Green Isle.



Youngsters diligently tried to practice foot positioning showed to them by their Twins coach.

The boys and girls, in groups of 6-9 year-olds and 10-13 year-olds, received coaching on their hitting, throwing, and catching skills from members of the Minnesota Twins organization. Under the hot summer sun, with parents and grandparents watching, the youth worked on their skills and had a lot of fun.



The 10 to 13 year-olds took a minute for a group photo.



A group of 6 to 9 year-olds had fun participating in the baseball clinic.

## Experience efficiency in any season with an air source heat pump

With heating and cooling accounting for some of the largest expenses for homeowners, it makes sense for your space to be equipped with one high-efficiency appliance to keep those costs as low as possible.

A smart, all-in-one solution is to install an air source heat pump (ASHP), which handles both your heating and cooling needs. It works in the summer months by extracting the existing heat from inside your home and moving it outside, often outperforming standard central air conditioners in the process.

The cycle is reversed for heating: by extracting warmth from the outdoor air and pumping it into your home. This will allow you to run your furnace less. During the spring and fall, you may not even need to run it at all.

ASHPs achieve all this while consuming up to 72 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces, leaving you with a savings of up to 30 percent on your electric bill.

Earlier generations of ASHPs were limited in terms of their effectiveness in states with colder climates like Minnesota's, but technology has advanced to where they can now operate down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

"With the recent advancements in air source heat pump technology, they can now be used to cost effectively deliver a much larger portion of the heating needs of homes and businesses in cold climate areas such as Minnesota," said Rodney De Fouw, member electrification strategist at Great River Energy. "In rural areas where natural gas is not available, using air source heat pumps for heating is now commonly the most cost-effective heating option available

for the vast majority of the heating season. This is especially true if you can take advantage of programs and rate options available through your local electric cooperative."

Beyond cost savings, ASHPs provide additional benefits such as higher-quality warmth compared to conventional furnaces as the ASHP distributes heat more evenly and holds moisture better which results in a natural, comfortable warmth.

ASHPs also provide a safe, environmentally-friendly solution for home comfort conditioning. They don't use an open flame or create products of combustion — such as carbon monoxide — so there is no need for venting.

Part of your electric cooperative's mission is to help you use energy wisely by offering a variety of programs, resources and products to make this possible.

**McLeod Co-op Power offers rebates of up to \$800 based on your SEER rating on new ASHP systems.**

### QI ASHP Rebates

SEER 14.5.....	\$200
SEER 15.....	\$400
SEER 16.....	\$800

