

# MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

# NEWS

OCTOBER 2020



## 2020 MARKS COOPERATIVE'S 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Eighty-five years ago, our rural ancestors were living in the dark—forced to rely on iceboxes to cool food, kerosene lamps for lighting, wood stoves for cooking, and fetching water from wells. The reason: the investor-owned utilities had decided there was no profit to be made extending power lines into the countryside to hook up farms and small towns. No one else was up to the challenge, but McLeod Cooperative Power's founding members came together to take it on, tackling the feat of bringing power and hope to rural Minnesota by forming an electric cooperative.*

McLeod Co-op was chartered as a corporation by the state of Minnesota on October 3, 1935, and work quickly began building the first power lines. May 29, 1937, marked the culmination of years of planning and organization when the first power lines were energized. McLeod County farmers and rural residents could turn on and use their electric lights and power for the very first time.

At first, it was enough just to have electricity, to experience the joy of reading in the glow of an electric light bulb and to lift the heavy burden of labor in the house and in the barn. But it did not take long for electricity to transform life in rural America and for safe, reliable electricity to become expected.

Eighty-five years and countless hours of hard work later, McLeod Co-op is a modern, dynamic electric cooperative dedicated to providing safe, reliable, efficient electricity to its members. The Co-op now serves over 6,000 homes, farms, and businesses in parts of four central Minnesota counties.

Today we plug in our cell phones, televisions, gaming systems, and modern appliances without even thinking. Most people cannot even imagine life without electricity.

Beyond daily uses, the industry has grown tremendously through load management programs, renewable energy, efficiency standards, and electric vehicles. The possibilities for the future are endless.

Electricity energizes our lives and keeps us connected, today more than ever before. Through innovation, new technology, and dedication to our members, we're doing everything we can to keep electricity reliable and affordable for you. McLeod Co-op remains committed to the member-owners and communities we serve. In every decision we make, we consider our responsibility to you, our members, first and foremost. We were formed by visionaries to serve you and that remains our most important goal today.

McLeod Co-op  
Historical Timeline

02

Drive-Up Donut  
Member Event

04

## Stored Water Heating and Storage Heat Control Period Changes This Winter

For the winter season, the electric thermal storage schedules for water heating and space heating are controlled from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. from October 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.

## Is Your Dual Fuel System Winter Ready?

If you have a Dual Fuel Heating system, now is the time to be sure your back-up heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

## LED YARD LIGHTS

**Did you know that LED yard lights are available through McLeod Cooperative Power?**

Your co-op provides LED yard lighting to protect your home and property. Enjoy the peace-of-mind and better visibility that a yard light can provide for your farm or business.

LED yard lights are long-lasting, low maintenance, and a highly efficient replacement for existing 100/150/175W high-pressure sodium, metal halide, or mercury vapor security lights.



These LED lighting fixtures utilize an all-aluminum housing allowing for maximum heat transfer, a rugged construction, and are a 3-wire UL listed type fixture.

### MONTHLY RENTAL OPTION:

- \$6.60 per month
- Installed at no charge by the co-op on a meter pole or transformer pole
- Includes electricity used by the light (50 watt)

### PURCHASE OPTION:

- 120V, 50 watt, 5700K
- \$175.00 plus sales tax
- Must be picked up and paid for at the co-op office
- Qualify for a \$60 high-efficiency rebate

Please note yard lights cannot be flush-mounted on a building without modification and must be suspended by a 1.25" to 2.5" diameter mounting arm.)





A GLIMPSE AT 85 YEARS OF SERVICE

1930s

- August 19, 1935: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to discuss rural electrification
- October 3, 1935: McLeod Cooperative Power is Incorporated and Bylaws are created
- October 8, 1936: 1<sup>st</sup> cedar pole was set by E.S. Gaynor Construction



- May 29, 1937: 1<sup>st</sup> line was energized
- August 28, 1938: 1<sup>st</sup> member appreciation picnic was held to celebrate progress
- 1939: R.A. Fischer was hired as the 1<sup>st</sup> full time General Manager

1940s

- November 1940: “Our Line” newsletter was launched to keep members informed
- 1941: 2,600 members energized as WWII slows construction due to scarce materials
- January 1942: Output frequents 10,000+ kWh per day

- 1945: 1<sup>st</sup> requests to reduce peak demand were made during milking hours as consumption approached supply creating power shortages



- 1946: 1<sup>st</sup> two-way radios were used to talk to trucks in the field

1950s

- March 1950: Co-op moves to new building on Ford Ave.
- 1950: 1st water heater control program is introduced
- 1951: Revenues reach the 1/2 million milestone and the co-op continues to grow
- 1957: The Capital Credits program is introduced

1960s

- 1961: Automatic yard lights began to be installed

1970s

- July 1977: The automated billing system was installed and bills were mailed to member for the 1<sup>st</sup> time

1980s

- Co-op starts visiting schools with an electric safety message
- 1986: Redistricting took place to ensure member voting equality



1990s

- The co-op faced difficult times due to erosion of service territory by municipal annexations
- 1992: Cooperative Response Center is formed by 19 co-ops include McLeod to meet after-hours dispatch needs
- 1994: The co-op begins providing satellite TV services
- 1995: Employees reach 1.6 milion safe working hours and set best in the nation safety record
- 1997: Renewable wind energy is made available to members at a premium rate for the 1<sup>st</sup> time



2000s

- 2001: Refreshed logo launches
- 2004: Operation Round Up launches to create a member giving program to support the community
- 2004-2006: The automated meter reading system is installed eliminating the need for members to read their own meters
- 2005: Wild Blue high speed internet is added to the co-op's service offerings
- 2004-2008: Load management programs and new housing kept the co-op busy and growing

2010s

- Co-op sells DirectTV, Wild Blue/ Excede and MSM Phone Pendant Service franchises
- April 2017: Redistricting took place to ensure member voting equality
- September 2017: Crews travel to Florida to provide help following a hurricane

2020

- July 2020: Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are updated and approved by members
- The co-op constructs and moves into a new headquarters uniting the co-op under one roof to create operational efficiencies



SEPTEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on September 22, 2020, at MCPA headquarters. All nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers were present.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Debbie Ebert, Operations Specialist/Safety Coordinator reviewed the outage report for the month of August 2020 which included a total of 95 outages, affecting 2,008 members. Most outages were caused by wind and lightning from storms.
- CEO Ron Meier reported that there have not been any offers on the old building to date. The price has been reduced which will bring our property to the top of various realtor lists.
- Shannon Jerabek, Energy Management Specialist provided information on various electric vehicle charging stations. ZEF Energy offers a simple dual-head – level II charging unit. Grant incentives may be available to help defray the cost. After a lengthy discussion, the cooperative is still considering whether to install one at the new facility.
- A motion carried to approve a minor change to Policy 4-24 Capital Credits that adjusts when a check will be issued from \$5.00 to \$10.00.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2020-09-01 General Retirement of Capital Credits. This year, just over \$300,000 will be retired.
- The Board discussed the idea of changing the Operation Round Up Program from an opt-in to an opt-out program. A motion was carried to convert the program to an opt-out program effective January 1, 2021.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: McLeod Cooperative Power News

2. Issue Frequency: Monthly

3. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/18/2020

4. Issue Frequency: 12

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$7.38

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 3515 11th St. East, Glencoe, MN 55336

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 3515 11th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Dan Ehrke, Publisher, McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 3515 11th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Amanda Grothe, Fuller Creative, LLC 1720 Polara Court, St. Cloud, MN 56303 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Dan Ehrke, McLeod Cooperative Power Association 3515 11th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.): Full Name: McLeod Cooperative Power Association Complete Mailing Address: 3515 11th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: [X] None Complete Mailing Address: STCP 1666-1400 Independence Ave SW Washington D.C. 20250-1968

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one): [X] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months [ ] Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (see instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9001 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 13. Publication Title: McLeod Cooperative Power News  | 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/18/2020    |
| 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation  | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months |
| a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)   |  |
| (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)                      | 2317   |
| (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)                           | 3534   |
| (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®) |  |
| (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS   |  |
| c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))  | 5851   |
| d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541   | 52   |
| (1) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541  | 16   |
| (2) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)  |  |
| (3) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)  |  |
| e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))   | 68   |
| f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)  | 5919   |
| g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))   | 50   |
| h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)   | 5969   |
| i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)  | 99.8%  |

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months

No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

a. Paid Electronic Copies

b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)

c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)

d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15h divided by 16c x 100)

99.8% 99.8%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

19. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

The Power to Protect Your Favorite Chill Spot

We know things are hard right now, so we're now offering 3 months of free monitoring with the purchase of a new security system. Protect your property from intruders, fire, and other threats for less than you'd think.

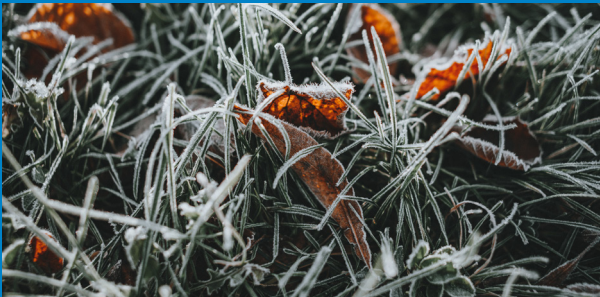
888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com





# MN COLD WEATHER RULE REMINDER

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule, under statute 216B.097, protects residential utility customers during the cold winter months. Under this rule, McLeod Cooperative Power will not disconnect your electricity from October 15 through April 15 if you meet the Cold Weather Rule requirements.



In order to qualify for winter shut-off protection, you must meet all of the following conditions:

- Your total household, not individual, income is less than 50% of the state median income.
- You contact the Co-op, set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with scheduled payments.

It's important to understand that the Cold Weather Rule still allows electricity to be shut off for non-payment. You will only be protected if electricity provides your primary source of heat and you meet the conditions above.

Before disconnecting service to a residential member during the cold weather months, McLeod Co-op will provide a disconnect notice, statement of member rights and responsibilities, a list of local energy assistance providers, and available payment plans or options to the affected member. Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

**At McLeod Cooperative Power our members are important. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.** If you are worried about paying your electric bill this winter, reach out to us at (800) 494-6272 before the due date of your bill. Winter will be here soon. Let's work together to keep everyone safe and warm.

# OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



*October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On."*

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? Over the past several months in changing circumstances due to the pandemic, we've all been challenged to operate differently.

As an essential service, and to ensure the reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. We adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service to ensure the health and safety of our employees and valued members. For those impacted by COVID-19 and needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees, suspended disconnects, and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. We worked our hardest to help you "power on" and show you how much we care about this community.

One of the seven principles that guide all co-ops is "concern for the community." This principle is the essential DNA of McLeod Cooperative Power, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities and uniquely positions us to respond to you and changes in the energy industry.

- We are locally-led by members you choose to look out for your long-term needs. We work for you, not for shareholders in faraway places.
- We don't just serve the community; we're part of the community. We are a catalyst for good, facilitating scholarships for education, providing donations to local organizations, assisting with economic development.
- The people who work here also live in the local community. When you call us, you're most likely talking to someone who calls our area home.
- We work together with cooperatives across the country to develop new technology and infrastructure, learn from each other, and keep the grid secure.

In 1935, McLeod Co-op was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do – Power On.

# PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

## GRANT MILLER LINE FOREMAN

After more than 39 years of service, Grant Miller's last day with McLeod Co-op Power was September 8. Wow, talk about a milestone! Grant started his career as an Apprentice Lineman and was promoted to Line Foreman in December 2002. Grant will be greatly missed, but we couldn't be more proud of his service and dedication to our Co-op. We wish him nothing but happiness and relaxation in the years ahead.

**Please join us in congratulating Grant on his well-deserved retirement!**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.



# DONUT KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU

We're celebrating our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Donuts!

Every year, we want to say thank you and express our appreciation for your patronage throughout the year. Drive-up to receive complimentary donuts as we celebrate by thanking you for your continued support.



CELEBRATE 85 YEARS  
WITH US AT OUR

## DONUT DRIVE-UP

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

OCTOBER 20  
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

MCLEOD CO-OP  
HEADQUARTERS

3515 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET EAST, GLENCOE

*As members of the cooperative, you are more than just customers, you are the owners.*

You are the owners of all the poles and power lines, the bucket trucks, and the facilities. This is your cooperative!

*We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.*

We enjoy the opportunity to meet the members who support us and play a role in directing our future. In light of COVID-19, we have to make a few changes to our typical events, and we'll be hosting a drive-up donut event.

Join us from 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20 at the McLeod Cooperative Power Headquarters (3515 11<sup>th</sup> Street East, Glencoe.)

*First-come, first-served while supplies last. Feeling sick? Please be courteous and stay home.*

USPS 2220  
PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
HUTCHINSON, MN

## NOMINATIONS OPEN: TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COMMUNITY AWARD



*Each year, McLeod Cooperative Power celebrates volunteerism and community service with the Touchstone Energy® Community Award.*

One winning organization receives a \$500 cash prize and competes with winners from other electric cooperatives for statewide recognition and an additional \$1,000 cash prize. We are now seeking nominations! Any civic organization or nonprofit in a county within our service territory is eligible to compete for the award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the local community.

Applications for the award are now being accepted and are available at [www.mcleodcoop.com/touchstone-energy-community-award](http://www.mcleodcoop.com/touchstone-energy-community-award). The application will require a description of the project, program, or event, as well as the positive impact it brings to the community and must be received by October 31.

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, McLeod Co-op is a partner in a national alliance of more than 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives dedicated to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to the community.



3515 11th St. East  
Glencoe, MN 55336

[WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM](http://WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM)

The McLeod Cooperative Power News (USPS 2220) is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 3515 11th St. East, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070. Subscription rate: \$7.38 per year for members and \$14.76 per year for non-members. McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer.

Periodicals Postage Rate is at Hutchinson, MN. 55350 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: McLeod Coop Power News, 3515 11th Street E. Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

**OFFICE PHONE**  
(320) 864-3148  
(800) 494-6272

**24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE**  
(800) 927-5685

**WEBSITE**  
[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)  
**EMAIL ADDRESS**  
[mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Ronald Meier  
**EDITOR**  
Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**District 1:**  
Oria Brinkmeier  
(320) 485-2554

**District 2:**  
Joe Griebie, Vice President  
(320) 779-1101

**District 3:**  
David Resch, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
(952) 449-1793

**District 4:**  
Doug Kirtz, President  
(320) 583-7673

**District 5:**  
Allan Duesterhoeft  
(320) 587-9134

**District 6:**  
Gary Burdorf  
(507) 964-5815

**District 7:**  
Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative  
(320) 583-0037

**District 8:**  
Keith Peterson  
(320) 583-0997

**District 9:**  
Susan Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer  
(952) 250-3109