

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JUNE 2022



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 12

As a member-owner of McLeod Co-op Power, you are also an owner of the cooperative. As an owner, you have a voice in the operation of our organization. Through attendance at the Annual Meeting and the election of Directors, you help set the future direction of our Cooperative.

Join us to hear from your co-op leaders who will discuss priorities for the Cooperative, challenges we face, our financial health, and operational plans for the coming years. In addition, members will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain helpful information about the electric industry and the Cooperative. As a member of our community, you have a valuable perspective—and we invite you to share it with the co-op.

MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Date & Location:
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
Hutchinson Event Center

9:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order

- Members are asked to RSVP for the meeting by calling (320) 864-3148 or toll free (800) 494-6272. RSVPs will also be accepted by email at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.
- All registered members will receive a McLeod Co-op Power coffee mug.
- Door Prizes include an air fryer, leaf blower, weed whip, fire extinguisher, and electrical extension cords. (Must be present to win. Door prizes subject to change without notice.)
- Grab and Go lunches will be provided following the meeting, catered by Chef Craig.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Members in Districts 7, 8, and 9 have the opportunity to vote for a director to represent their respective district on the Cooperative's Board. Profiles of each candidate are included with each election ballot and are included in this newsletter on page 3.

Mailed ballots must be received in our office by 4:00 p.m. on July 11. If you prefer, you can bring your ballot with you to the Annual Meeting. Director elections will come to a close at the Annual Meeting and the results will be announced after the votes are counted.

This is YOUR Cooperative. To remain healthy and strong, we need to have continued active participation and support from you. If you have not attended the Annual Meeting in the past, or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to join us. McLeod Co-op is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors and we look forward to seeing you at your Annual Meeting.



2022 DIRECTOR
CANDIDATE PROFILES

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TIPS FOR HIRING
AN ELECTRICIAN

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UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

At McLeod Co-op Power, we rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address to our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.



While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences. Keeping your information updated also helps us reach you if there is a question about your energy use or billing.

Your contact information is not shared, but is only used by McLeod Co-op to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by calling our office at (800) 494-6272 or logging into your SmartHub account online.

MCLEOD CO-OP POWER OFFICES CLOSED

McLeod Co-op Power will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2022 in observance of Independence Day. Please call (800) 927-5685 in the event of an outage or emergency



CEO MESSAGE

Did someone say door prizes?

Ok, our annual meeting which is schedule for July 12th this year will have door prizes, but more importantly, lunch!

Alright, alright; I know most of you that have attended in the past came to hear how our Cooperative did in the past year. 2021 was a good year for the cooperative as we continued to navigate COVID, retirements and fiscally responsible financials.

The annual meeting is a gathering where members can catch up with friends and meet our employees and directors face to face. Please mark your calendars and come out on the 12th for a chance to win a door prize while enjoying a tasty lunch.

Cooperatively,



ANNUAL REPORT

Each year, McLeod Co-op Power publishes an annual report for our membership that details the events, challenges, successes, financial strength of the previous year. View the report at www.mcleodcoop.com/about/co-op-info.



CEO RON MEIER

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

TO THE MEMBERS OF
MCLEOD COOPERATIVE
POWER ASSOCIATION
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Hutchinson Event Center at 1005 Hwy. 15 S. Plaza 15, in the City of Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on July 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 7, 8 and 9. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 9:00 a.m. and will be closed at 10:00 a.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 26th day of April 2022.

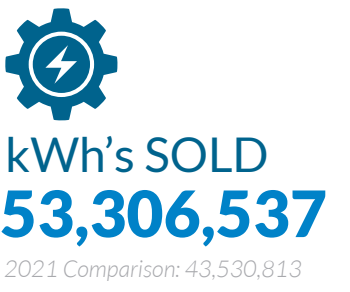
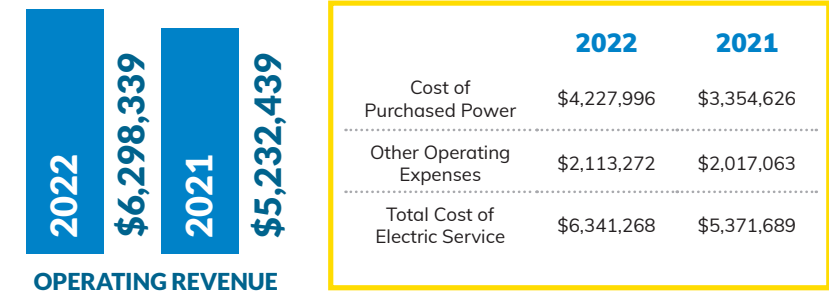
Susan Anderson, Secretary

MAY 2022
BOARD MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS

- The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on May 24, 2022, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. Nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.
- Highlights of the meeting included:
- Operations Manager Brady reviewed the April 2022 outage report with a total of 49 outages, affecting 145 consumers.
 - A motion was carried to accept the action of the 2022 Nominating Committee for Districts 7, 8, and 9.
 - Accountant Martin presented the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for April 2022 for review.
 - A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2022-05-01 Restatement of the RS and 401K Plans.
 - A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2022-05-03 CoBank Authority.
 - A motion was carried to approve Policy 5-11 Employee Recognition – Longevity Award.
 - A motion was carried to approve rescinding Policy 5-15 Extended Service Appreciation.
 - A motion was carried to approve a bill credit for an overage charge of the reservation fee involving a commercial account.

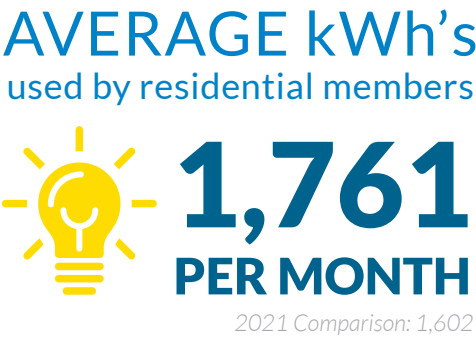
BY THE NUMBERS | Q1 2022

McLeod Co-op Power’s leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the Co-op’s operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our First Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



KEEP COOL AND TUNE UP
YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

- INCREASE EFFICIENCY
- SAVE MONEY
- EXTEND LIFE OF A/C UNIT
- LOWER HUMIDTY



McLeod Cooperative Power members are eligible for a \$25 rebate when an HVAC contractor performs a central air conditioning tune-up.

LEARN MORE AT:
www.mcleodcoop.com

2022 CANDIDATE PROFILES

The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each of these districts to appear on the ballot. Below are the candidates they have selected for Districts 7, 8, & 9.

DISTRICT 7

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



Randy Hlavka,
Incumbent

Randy had a 39-year career as an electrician, serving as a Master Electrician for Hutchinson Technology and installing computerized energy controls for UHL company at various commercial and industrial firms in the state. He raised his family in Hutchinson Township and currently resides with his wife Jenny in Hale township enjoying grandkids, gardening, animals, and the open space. Randy has served on the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors for the past 9 years. For the past 8 years, he has served as the Great River Energy representative for the Cooperative. His past community involvement has included serving as a church elder for First Presbyterian Church, Legion Commander, sportsman member, and member of the Disabled American Veterans organization. Randy believes some important issues for the Cooperative include evaluating time of use rates and other rate design options to provide choices for members to fit their service needs. Long-term goals include renewable energy sources, distributed energy, electric vehicles, and electric storage. He'd also like to see the Cooperative continue to focus on steady rates as well as listening to members to meet their needs.



Byron Bettenhausen

Byron lives in rural Hutchinson with his wife Katie where they raised their two boys, Brandon and Trenton. He has been employed by Alliance Pipeline for 23 years. He is a certified Jet Engine Mechanic and does pipeline work from the North Dakota border down south to St. Peter MN. He obtained an AAS degree from Bismarck State College in Power Plant/Power Process Operations. Byron previously served on the Hutchinson School Board for 9 years (Vice-Chair for 4 years) and Renville County Fair Board for 12 years (President for 6 years). Byron believes it will be important for the McLeod Co-op Power Board to consider renewable energies, while also ensuring that both reliability and affordable energy for consumers are still prioritized. He believes communication is a strength for the Cooperative and he'd like to make sure this continues. Investing in rebates for equipment investments and load management programs would be other continued focus areas for benefiting both the Cooperative and its members. Byron offers over 27 years of experience in the energy industry. He believes this experience would help him contribute to new ideas and good discussions. He looks forward to the possible opportunity to work with the other Board members and management team to provide leadership for the Cooperative.

DISTRICT 8

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



Keith Peterson,
Incumbent

Keith is currently the District 8 Director. This is his twelfth year serving on the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors. He has operated his farm in rural Hector for the past 45 years. Keith and his family are members of Swedlanda Church, where he has served as a chairman of the church board. Other leadership positions in the community include serving as a director for the Buffalo Lake-Hector School Board and president of the Hector Farmers Elevator. Additionally, he has served as the chairman and clerk for Martinsburg Township. Other volunteer work includes 27 years with the Hector Lions Club. Keith believes having affordable electrical rates and reliable service are priorities for our Cooperative. He also would like to see the Cooperative continue to invest in its infrastructure such as converting overhead lines to underground. Keith looks forward to working with the other directors and employees on a strong long-term future for the Cooperative and its members.



Mark Taylor

Mark lives in rural Brownton. He worked in the field of law enforcement and public safety for 27 years with a focus on policing, fire protection, and emergency management. This included 20 years with the McLeod County Sheriff's Office, which included holding the position of Chief Deputy Sheriff. He also served as the Director of Public Safety for the City of Northfield MN. Mark holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Mankato State University. His professional experience includes an array of administrative roles including budgeting, hiring, and training. He also has extensive experience working with various boards, commissions, and constituents. Mark has been active with the churches that he has attended including serving on the Board of Trustees and Church President for Bethlehem United Methodist Church. In the past, he also coached youth football for many years. Mark would like to see the Cooperative plan for its future by anticipating equipment replacement and changes in the industry. The board should make sound decisions that balance long-term growth addressing operations, equipment, technology, and staffing needs. He would like to see the Cooperative continue to focus on customer service and communications as well as the already strong outage response efforts.

DISTRICT 9

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



Susan Anderson,
Incumbent

Susan is retired and currently helps run a small farm with her husband. She has served on the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors since 2019. Her professional career included serving as a corporate attorney for twenty years. After retiring as an attorney, she assisted her husband in running an automotive repair shop. She also held several positions with two food cooperatives and an Aldi grocery store. Her career has given her extensive training and experience in cooperative operations, budgeting, and strategic planning. In 2021, she became a Credentialed Cooperative Director through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association by completing a series of educational courses on the electrical industry. Susan is a volunteer with the Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service and a member of the Minnesota Sustainable Farming Association. Her priorities for the Cooperative are to focus on stable and reasonable rates as well as providing electrical power that is both reliable and sustainable. Susan's long-term initiatives include expanding the customer base as well as developing renewable energy sources and the infrastructure to support the growth of electric vehicles.



Jeff Caswell

Jeff and Shonna have been McLeod Co-op Power members for 20 years. They live in rural Young America near Baylor Park. After graduating high school in 1982, he worked with his dad at Caswell Plumbing & Heating in NW Iowa. Along with residential plumbing and HVAC, they also did commercial work including schools, hospitals, and a wide variety of mechanical contracting. Jeff's niche within the business was water and wastewater treatment plants for municipalities and rural water systems all over western Iowa, southwestern MN and South Dakota. In 2002, Jeff married Shonna and moved to Carver County where they operate four restaurants. In addition to the restaurants, Jeff keeps busy with construction work and volunteer/mission projects. He's previously served Camden Township for 7 years as the part time maintenance man grading roads, plowing snow etc. Jeff has served on several boards with local and international non-profit ministries, for profit ministries, and church boards. Jeff believes it is important to keep rates affordable, maintain infrastructure, and pursue common sense renewable energy. Additionally, he sees the Cooperative's service and outage response efforts as strengths and would like to see these areas continue to be prioritized. He is excited about the possibility of being able to serve his neighbors and fellow members with the goal of building a strong future for the Cooperative.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pictured left to right: (left to right): Marlin Kohls, Dean Loehrs, Jim Roebke, Virgil Stender, John Lipke, Doug Hanneman, Judy Hahn, and Bruce Svanda (not pictured Luanne Kucera).



FIVE TIPS FOR HIRING AN ELECTRICIAN

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



LICENSED & QUALIFIED

Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.

Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.



INSURED

Make sure the electrician is insured.

Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.



READ REVIEWS

Read all the reviews.

Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.



BUDGET & QUOTES

Determine your budget. Get two quotes.

Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).



TALK TIMELINE

Talk timeline.

Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

Saving money is always a tempting prospect for people to attempt DIY repairs around the home. However, certain projects need professional assistance. One perfect example is the home's electrical work. One of the main benefits of using a licensed electrician is that you gain access to professional expertise. Many of these electricians have years of experience in the industry and training under their belt. They can quickly identify the source of the problem with your electrical system and help to solve any issues without sacrificing safety or quality. Safety is another important consideration. Working on electrical equipment is a dangerous task that can cause fire or electric shocks if you make a mistake. An electrical job is not a hit-and-miss project. It has to be done right all the time and every time to guard the safety of your family and property.

USPS 2220
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
HUTCHINSON, MN

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE: SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

McLeod Co-op Power is excited and honored to award our \$500 Lineworker Scholarship to Hunter Stearns.

Hunter is the son of Keith and Amy Stearns, and graduated from Sibley East High School. He will be attending Minnesota West Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota this fall. We wish Hunter the best as he completes the Electrical Lineworker Technology program.

For those considering a career as an electrical lineworker, the next round of scholarship applications will be due next April 2023.

Learn more at:
<https://www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/>



"I enjoy working outdoors and with my hands. After finishing a job shadow experience I think this career will be a great fit for me," shared Hunter about becoming a lineworker.



3515 11th St. East
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WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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