

# MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JUNE 2023



## EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF OWNERSHIP AT MCLEOD CO-OP'S ANNUAL MEETING

*As a valued member-owner of McLeod Co-op Power, you hold more than just an electricity bill in your hands. You possess a voice that can shape the future of our cooperative. With the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting and participate in the election of Directors, you have the power to impact the organization.*

Join us for a gathering where you'll have the chance to connect with our co-op leaders. They will share the priorities that drive our cooperative, discuss the challenges we face, shed light on our financial well-being, and unveil our operational plans for the years ahead. It's a unique occasion to engage with fellow members, ask questions, and gain valuable insights. Your perspective matters, and we eagerly await your input.

**SAVE THE DATE & MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**  
**\*New Location: Crow River Winery\***

Please Note: Event parking is located on the west side of the winery and guests should enter through the pergola to the Great Hall.

The day will kick off with registration at 9:00 a.m., followed by the official commencement of the meeting at 10:00 a.m. To ensure your spot, kindly RSVP by calling (320) 864-3148 or toll-free at (800) 494-6272. Alternatively, you can send an email to [mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com).

As a token of our appreciation, all registered members will receive a heavy duty 8 quart farm/garden bucket made by Miller Manufacturing in Glencoe. Guests will also have a chance to win a variety of door prizes including a battery-

operated leaf blower, weed whip, and several other prizes. Remember, you must be present to win, and the door prizes are subject to change without notice.

Once the meeting concludes, we invite you to savor a delicious sit down, buffet style lunch, prepared by the renowned Chef Craig. It's an opportunity to connect with your fellow co-op members, as you enjoy a delicious meal together.

Members residing in Districts 1, 2, and 3 also have the privilege of casting their vote for a director to represent their respective district on our Board. To help you make an informed decision, we've included profiles of each candidate on page 3 of this newsletter. These profiles will also be included with the election ballot.

You have two options to submit your ballot: either mail it to our office, ensuring it reaches us by 4:00 p.m. on July 10, or bring it with you to the Annual Meeting. The elections will come to a close during the meeting, and we will announce the results once the votes have been counted.

At McLeod Co-op Power, we recognize that the strength of our cooperative lies in the active participation and unwavering support of members like you. Whether you're a regular attendee or it has been a while since your last Annual Meeting, we encourage you to take this opportunity to join us. Remember, we are more than just our power lines. We are a community and we're excited to connect with you at our Annual Meeting.

2023 DIRECTOR  
CANDIDATE PROFILES

03

SCHOLARSHIP  
WINNER

04



**FREE! YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023 | ARLINGTON, MN**

Join McLeod Co-op Power and the Arlington Baseball Association at the Arlington Baseball Park (410 2nd Ave NE, Arlington, MN 55307) from 9-11 a.m. The event is open to everyone, ages 6-12. Register at [playballmn.com](http://playballmn.com).

## EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

McLeod Co-op Power offers several convenient payment options. To avoid late fees, always pay your electric bill by the due date. If you have questions about your bill, please call our office at (800) 494-6272.

### AUTOPAY

Payments can be made automatically on the 28th of each month through a checking or savings account. To enroll, members need to complete an authorization form (available at [www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to-pay-options/](http://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to-pay-options/)) and attach a voided check or savings withdrawal slip.

### SMARTHUB

McLeod Co-op's account management program, SmartHub, makes it easy to pay your bill online. Register online or through the app to make payments. Those enrolled can also view information on their energy usage, receive notifications, and manage their account while on the go.

### PAYNOW

One-time online payments can be made without a SmartHub account by clicking on the "Pay Now" button at the top of our website.

### PHONE

Make secure credit card payments 24 hours a day with our automated phone payment system by calling (800) 494-6272 and choose option #2. To use the automated system, you will need to know your account number, which is in the top right section of your bill statement.

## OFFICES CLOSED

McLeod Co-op Power will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in observance of Independence Day. Please call (800) 927-5685 in the event of an outage or emergency.





CEO MESSAGE

I am honored to extend a personal invitation to you for our upcoming Annual Meeting at McLeod Co-op Power. As your CEO, I understand the incredible value that each member brings to our cooperative. Your voice matters, and this meeting provides an invaluable opportunity for you to actively shape the future of our organization. Join us on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the Crow River Winery, where you'll have the chance to engage with our dedicated co-op leaders, gain insights into our priorities and operational plans, and participate in the election of Directors. Your presence is vital as we gather to ensure the continued strength and success of our cooperative. Let's come together, share ideas, and build a brighter future for McLeod Co-op Power. I eagerly anticipate your attendance at this important event.

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](http://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 Crow River Winery at 14848 MN State Hwy. 7 East, Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on July 11, 2023, 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 1, 2 and 3. 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

Susan Anderson, Secretary

MAY 2023  
BOARD MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on May 23rd, 2023, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. Eight board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

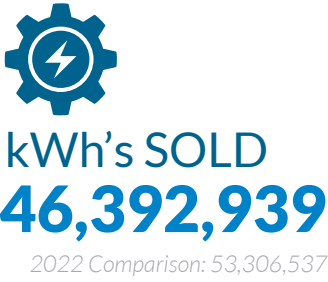
- The outage report for the month of April was provided with a total of 76 outages, affecting 536 consumers.
- A motion carried to approve Resolution 2023-05-02, Economic Development Loan to City of Winsted.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the April financials.
- A motion carried to Resolution 2023-05-01, Retired Capital Credit.
- A motion carried to approve Policy 1-2, Organizational Chart.
- A motion carried to approve Policy 5-7 Retirement, Insurance, and Savings Program.
- A motion carried to approve Resolution 2023-05-04, Clarifying the Amendment Effective Date in the 401(k) Pension Plan.
- A motion carried to approve Cooperative Family Fund Donation.

BY THE NUMBERS | Q1 2023

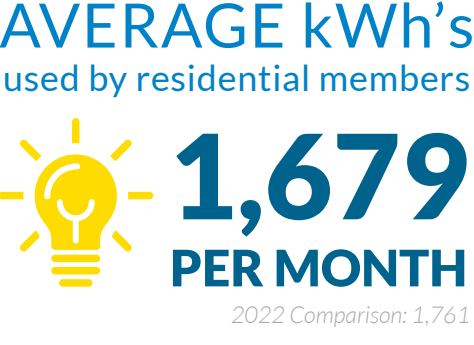
McLeod Co-op Power's leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the Co-op's operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our First Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2023	2022
Cost of Purchased Power	\$3,579,005	\$4,227,996
Other Operating Expenses	\$2,139,397	\$2,113,272
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$5,718,402	\$6,341,268



	2023	2022
Operating Margins	\$79,993	\$(42,929)
Non-Operating Margins	\$25,876	\$55,492



SPRING  
REBATE  
SPECIAL



Now through August 1, 2023, get up to a \$1,500 rebate from McLeod Co-op Power when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

ASHPs are one of the most effective ways to improve your home's energy efficiency. The technology concentrates heat in the air and moves it into or out of your home depending on the season.

LEARN MORE

[www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates/](http://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates/)



# 2023 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 1, 2, & 3.

## DISTRICT 1

Hollywood Township in Carver County, Winsted Township in McLeod County, and Franklin, Victor, and Woodland Townships in Wright County.



Kirk obtained a bachelor’s degree in business administration and is now retired with over 40 years of banking and finance experience serving commercial and agriculture clients. Simultaneous with his full-time employment in lending, Kirk actively farmed for 18 years and did real estate development for 15 years. Kirk served as a board member, chairman and treasurer for the Watertown-Mayer Public School system during 1988-1998. Additional community interests included former youth wrestling coach and booster club member and the University of Minnesota Master Gardner program. Kirk and his wife, Mary, live in Hollywood Township and have been members of McLeod Cooperative Power for 35 years. If elected, Kirk will support McLeod Co-op Power in pursuit of its goals to provide reliable power at a reasonable price to its members and continued maintenance of power lines to provide reliable service. He supports ongoing safety training for line staff and continued good communications with the Co-op members.

## DISTRICT 2

Hassan Valley, Rich Valley, and Sumter Townships in McLeod County.



Joe lives in Sumter Township and was actively involved in farming for 43 years. He raised corn, soybeans, and kidney beans until retiring in December of 2016. Joe is a graduate of Hutchinson High School. He earned a B.S. in Math from Augustana College and received his teaching credits from Gustavus Adolphus College. He worked as a substitute teacher for 13 years, in addition to his farming career. Joe served on the McLeod West School Board for nine years. He is a lifetime member and past president of the Brownton Rod & Gun Club. He served on the Ducks Unlimited Board for 25 years. He is a retired member and past president of the Brownton Lions. Joe is a retired supervisor and chairman of the Sumter Township Board. He was a certified snowmobile safety instructor for 20 years. Joe is also a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. Joe would like McLeod Co-op Power to continue to serve its members by continuing to emphasize reliability, safety, affordability, and energy efficiency.

## DISTRICT 3

Bergen, Glencoe, Helen Townships in McLeod County.



David and his wife, Mary, operate a small sheep flock on a 45-acre farm in Helen Township, near Glencoe. Past volunteer efforts including supporting FFA and 4-H. He also has served on the board of McLeod Corn and Soybean Growers. David has been involved in agricultural business, education, and banking his entire career. He is currently employed as a Vice-President and Ag Lender for Security Bank & Trust Company serving customers from the Brownton office, managing agricultural loans and business development. Prior to that Dave worked for the University of Minnesota Extension Service for 15 years as a County Educator, County and Regional Director, in the counties surrounding McLeod County. David is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, with a B.S. in Ag Education and a M.A. in Education. He is also a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Graduate School of Banking, in Financial Management. Dave believes he brings a diverse background of financial and work experience to the McLeod Co-op Power Board with the focus of having McLeod Co-op Power provide its members a reliable source of electricity in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



Joe lives in rural Winsted and has been a member of McLeod Cooperative Power for the past 40 years. He worked for 41 years for Genex Cooperative and is now retired. Over the years, Joe has been active volunteering as a youth softball and basketball coach. He also has been a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as serving on the Hall of Fame Committee for Lester Prairie High School. Joe would like to see the Cooperative continue to focus on reliable power, noting that McLeod Co-op Power’s crews do an outstanding job at restoring power when outages occur. He’d also like affordability of power for members to continue to be a focus area and cited solar gardens as a power resource to explore.



Marc is married to his wife Jennifer and has two children, Brooks (23) and Paige (20). His wife is the principal at Hutchinson High School. Marc graduated from Bemidji State University with a B.S. in Geography and St. Mary’s Minnesota - Minneapolis with an M.A in Human Resource Management. Marc and his wife reside in Hassan Valley Township on his great grandparent’s farm which they purchased and restored in 2006. He is employed with McLeod County as the Environmental Services Director and has been serving county residents since 2000. Marc is a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson and has served the church on the Board of Elders, building sub-committee, and confirmation instructor. He coached both youth and high school hockey for 29 years and youth baseball for 8 years. Marc stated that he submitted his nomination for the Board of Directors as another way to serve the community. He has served on the Minnesota Association of Planning and Zoning Administrators (AMC) legislative committee since 2002 shaping legislation relating to land use in Minnesota. Marc wants to thank members for taking the time to learn a little about his background.



Peter has rural Abercrombie, ND farming roots. His early career experience includes working for Williams Electric Cooperative, and Maier Engineering, serving Electrical Cooperatives. He earned a BSAgE degree from NDSU, worked 2 years at CaselH, collecting tractor usage data, and has been employed for 36 years at MTS Systems “making road simulators simulate roads”. His engineering experience is summarized as a collaborator. Members of McLeod Co-op Power, are both owners and a customers. We should use energy Efficiently, Effectively, and Economically. Investments in Infrastructure and personnel help to efficiently deliver electricity, and restore it quickly after storms. Energy audits help us understand how to conserve. Purchasing off-peak energy helps reduce our cost as customers and helps utilize our investment as owners. Future challenges will require innovative ways to conserve and store energy and better utilize off-peak energy. Renewable solar and wind energy will be areas of future energy growth. Peter and Sue purchased a Glencoe Hobby farm 3 years ago and have been married 40 years. If elected, Peter will do his best to listen and articulate member needs and concerns.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pictured left to right: (left to right): Charles Mathews (D3), Doug Ernst (D3), Betty Witthus (D3), Randy Kirchhoff (D2), David Aul (D2), Gary Krcil (D2), Larry Kassulker (D1), Mavis Weber (D1), and Keri Berg (D1).



# PLANT TREES SAFELY

Know what and where you're planting. When making landscaping decisions, it's important to consider the type of care, appearance, location, and overall size (mature height) of trees and shrubs before planting – especially when planting near power lines. Follow these safe planting distances to help us avoid future problems and power outages and don't forget to call 811 before you dig to locate buried utility lines.

## LOW TREE ZONE

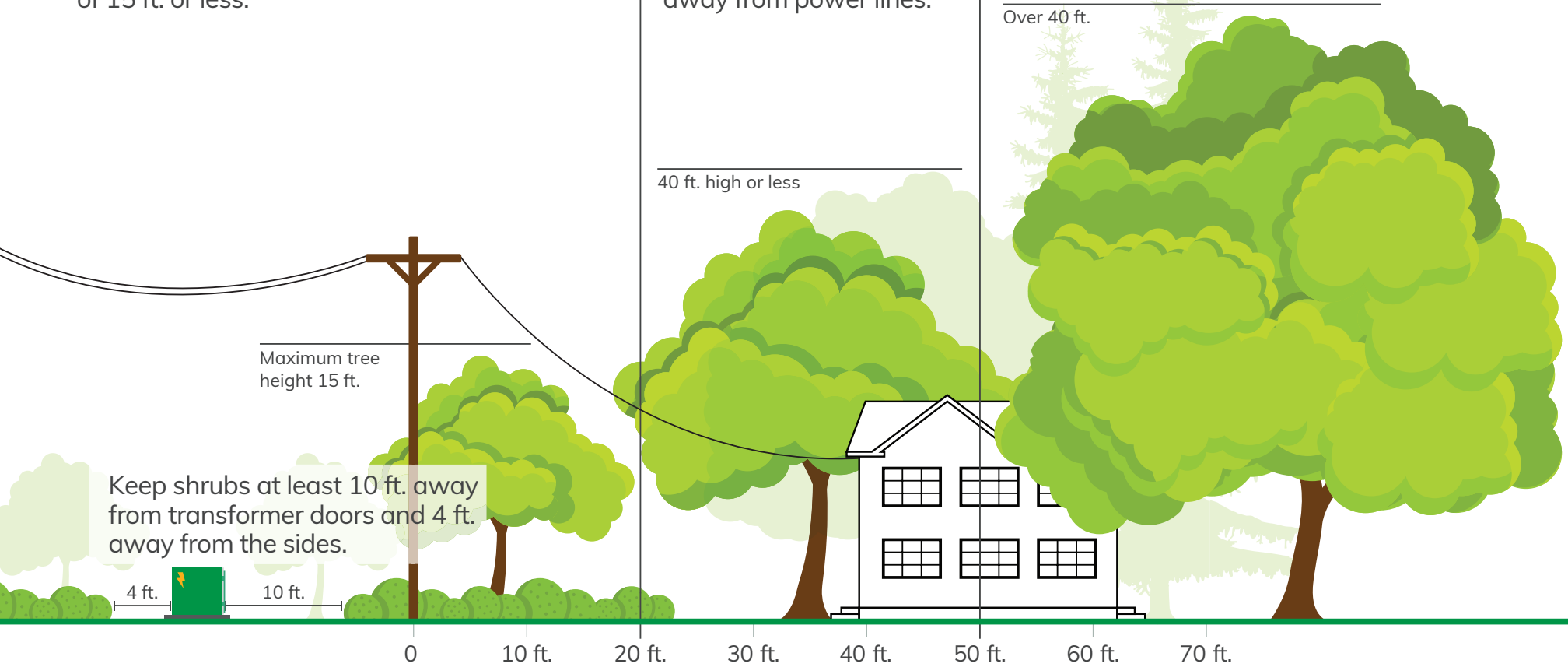
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

## MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

## LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



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 Sam Ebert.

Sam is the son of Debbie and Joel Ebert, and graduated from Sibley East High School. He will be attending Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota this fall. We wish Sam 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 2024.

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



"I want to be a line worker because, I enjoy working outdoors. I also like manual labor. I hope to do storm restoration after college," shared Sam about becoming a lineworker.



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: \$6.10 per year for members and \$12.20 per year for non-members.

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

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Ronald Meier

EDITOR  
Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
District 1:  
Currently Vacant

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

McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer and provider.