



# Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK  
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

JANUARY 2016

## Member meetings Opportunity for information, discussion, fellowship

District meetings for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be held at three locations within the Cooperative's service territory. Meetings will be held within Districts 3, 6 and 9. The meetings are held to inform attendees on current issues and programs associated with the Cooperative. Official business will be conducted at the three district meetings, which will include the election of a director candidate. Even though a meeting (4421007.01 Russell G. Rhen) may not be scheduled within the district in which you reside, you are welcome to attend a meeting of your choice. Anyone requiring special access or assistance at any one of the meeting sites should call Red Lake Electric in advance so arrangements can be made. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served at each meeting.

### 2016 Member Meeting Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Meeting	Location
Monday	Feb. 1	1:30 p.m.	District 3	Newfolden Community Center Newfolden
Monday	Feb. 1	7:00 p.m.	District 9	Black River Lutheran Church Rural Red Lake Falls
Monday	Feb. 8	7:00 p.m.	District 6	Plummer Community Hall Plummer

			Hurley	Como					
	West Valley	New Maine	Spruce Valley	Cedar	Whiteford				
Foldahl	Marsh Grove	New Folden ● 3	Holt	East Valley 2	Mud Lake	Eckvold	Valley		
	Viking	New Solum	Excel	Agder	Grand Plain	Moylan	Espelle		
	Numedal	Norden	North	Silverton 5	Cloverleaf	Goodridge	Reiner		
	Bray 9	Sanders	Rockabury 8	Smiley	Kratka	Highlanding 7	Star		Red Lake Indian Res.
Belgium	Polk Centre ●	Black River	River Falls	Wyandotte	Mayfield	Deerpark	Hickory		
	Wylie	Browns Creek	River	●					
Parnell	Louisville	Red Lake Falls	Gervais 6	Emardville	Garnes	Equality	Johnson		
Crookston	Gentilly	Lake Pleasant	Terrebonne	Poplar River	Lambert	Chester 4			● Member Meeting Locations
Fairfax	Kertsonville 1	Tilden	Grove Park	Badger	Lessor	Hill River			
Russia	Onstad	<b>DIRECTOR DISTRICTS</b> Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.							

## RED LAKE ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING Wednesday, March 30

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members are encouraged to mark their calendars for the Cooperative's annual meeting. The meeting will be called at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

## Director elections to be held

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members in District 3, 6 and 9 will soon elect directors to represent them. The initial elections will take place at the upcoming district meetings. Final election will occur at the Cooperative's annual meeting March 30 if there is more than one nominee. Districts 3, 6 and 9 are currently represented by Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl and Peter Mosbeck, respectively. Directors must be members residing in the district they represent and have no conflicts of interest regarding Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Any candidate for director must have his or her name stated as the "member" on the Cooperative's records. For more information on director qualifications and responsibilities contact Roger Johannek, general manager, at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative Director qualification requirements

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative.
- Is or becomes, or at any time during the three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been employed by a labor union, which represents or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.
- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of an incumbent director who is not up for re-election at that time.
- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.



Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. Email: redlake@minnkota.com.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President . . . . . Bonnie Christians  
Vice President . . . . . Randy Versdahl  
Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Mark Hanson  
Directors . . . . . Stacy Blawat, Aaron Chervestad,  
Robert Finstad, Colette Kujava,  
Steve Linder, Peter Mosbeck

Roger Johanneck . . . . . General Manager  
Shirley Bregier . . . . . Office Manager  
Steve Conely . . . . . Manager of Electric  
System Operations  
Kelli Brateng . . . . . Manager of Member Services

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168  
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068  
Fax: (218) 253-2630



## AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 1-218-253-2200

Website: [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)  
Email: [redlake@minnkota.com](mailto:redlake@minnkota.com)

## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-252-1166 or 811

## MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:  
**Scott Stenvik – 218-689-5406**

Red Lake and Polk Counties:  
**Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413**

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov) for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.*



# Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



## 2016 budget approved

The 2016 operating and capital improvement (construction) budget was presented to and approved by your board of directors at its November board meeting.

RLEC's total cost of providing service to the members is budgeted at \$14.3 million, an increase of \$754,000 or 5.6 percent above 2015. The majority of RLEC's increased cost (\$600,000) will cover an increase in energy cost and kilowatt-hour (kWh) purchases from Minnkota Power.

Wholesale power is expected to cost \$10.9 million in 2016 and makes up 77 percent of the \$14.3 million it will cost to provide RLEC members energy and electric service. Nonwholesale power expenses or RLEC's distribution costs are budgeted at \$3.3 million; an increase of \$155,000.

The Cooperative's budgeted energy sales for 2016 was set to increase slightly (.9 percent) from 2015 to reflect new service construction the past year, along with the expectation we'll experience a colder heating season than this past year. Despite the modest increase in sales projections in 2016 compared to 2015, the kWh sales budgeted is less than what we have averaged in sales to the members over the past nine years. Historical energy use trends show gradual sales growth over time, but annual fluctuations up and down from year to year are a normal part of RLEC's history.

Included with our 2016 budget for revenue and expenses is our plan for capital improvements. In addition to the normal replacement and maintenance to the electric distribution system, we have plans to add new distribution equipment and tie-lines that will help us carry out our mission of being (3814007.02 Troy A. Edberg) a reliable energy provider for our members.

We have historically taken a conservative approach to our budgeting process and we did again this year; that is, we hope to do better with energy sales and expense forecasts. As the year unfolds, we've learned that it is much easier to deal with doing better than you expected versus the opposite happening. It is our intention that the 2016 budget and our effort to carry this plan out will keep us on course to remain financially strong so we can continue to be a source of reliable, competitively priced energy for you in 2016 and beyond.

## Finding a needle in a haystack

The snowy day and evening of Dec. 22 assured us we would have a white Christmas throughout Red Lake Electric's service territory. Along with the snow, this weather system also brought darkness in the form of a power outage to 53 members living north and east of Oklee. The outage began just before sunset so by the time crews were able to arrive on the scene to search for the cause, nightfall was upon them. The culprit for the service interruption was a cracked pole top insulator that shorted out the line extending back to the Oklee substation. Finding a cracked insulator is a challenge sometimes, not always easily detectable to one's eye. That challenge to find the broken insulator increased when snowfall became heavy at times, making it more difficult to see equipment on the poles as well as slowing travel from the limited visibility. To add to the challenge was the pole with the faulty insulator was located off the roadway on a cross-country section of line.



We think this insulator was cracked and causing blinks in that area prior to the snow. The moisture was enough to create an arc and short the line out. Our crews understand the frustration members have going without power, and the delay in finding the cause for this outage was frustrating for them, too. I know our employees responsible for finding problems, making repairs and restoring service sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding while the power is off. I can assure you they want power restored as quickly as you do.

## Membership meetings

It is that time of year again, when the Cooperative holds its District and informational meetings throughout our service area. I encourage you to check out the meeting schedule included in this month's issue of *Volts & Jolts* and welcome members to join us for one of the meetings located in your area. Our meeting format will be similar to previous years where we will provide information we think you will find interesting and helpful, give you a chance to ask questions and visit with RLEC staff and neighbors over pie and coffee. Hope to see you there.



## Line Service Department

by Steve Conely

2015 was a pretty busy year at Red Lake Electric. A few storms gave us some headaches. The first storm that caused some lengthy outages was on May 28. It affected an area north and west of Red Lake Falls. This kept the line department out most of the night and the next day. On Aug. 12, a much larger storm hit. It affected about 35 percent of our member-owners. This storm caused outages from Middle River to Oklee and all parts in between. When totaled, about 1,700 member accounts were without power. (1128002.03 Jason or Jill Edin) With help from our neighboring electric co-ops, PKM Electric and Roseau Electric, we had almost everyone back on within 24 hours. It took another week to clean up, fix or replace infrastructure and return the power lines to normal operations.

Our membership is growing. Most years RLEC will build about 50 new services. This year was no different; we put up 49 new services. Fifty percent of them were for homes, about 30 percent for farm-related sites, i.e., drain tile pumps, bin fans and irrigation pumps and pivots, and the last 20 percent mostly businesses and a couple of cabins. To supply power to these new services, RLEC had to construct 1½ miles of overhead line and 4½ miles of underground line. I would like to express my appreciation to the landowners who allowed us access to their land to provide power for the new services and reroute line when we rebuild.

In closing, if you have added or plan to add bin fans, grain dryers, electric heat or any other larger electric load, please contact us to avoid overloading your electric service and damaging our equipment. Stay safe in 2016 and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to [redlake@minnkota.com](mailto:redlake@minnkota.com) or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

### Sausage and Gravy Breakfast Casserole

Serves 8 (with the Grands Biscuits)

1 lb. sausage, any flavor  
12 ounces of buttermilk biscuit dough  
(we used Grands, which are slightly bigger)  
1 cup cheese, shredded  
6 eggs  
1/2 cup milk  
1 (2 3/4 ounce) package peppered gravy mix  
(makes 2 cups)  
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 13x9 pan. Brown the sausage in skillet and drain thoroughly.

Cut biscuit dough into 1-inch pieces and line the bottom of the pan. Layer cooked sausage over the biscuit pieces. Layer shredded cheese over sausage.

Whisk eggs and milk; add salt and pepper and pour over biscuit/layers. Make gravy according to instructions and pour over everything.

Bake for 30-45 minutes, or until eggs and biscuits are cooked through. Serve warm (leftovers are excellent, too!)

## Director nomination and election procedure

The procedure for which directors can be nominated and elected for Red Lake Electric Cooperative is outlined in Article II, Section 10, of the Cooperative's Bylaws. That section reads as follows:

**SECTION 10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.** (a) Nomination at District Meetings. Not less than forty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which directors are to be elected, the board of directors shall call a separate meeting of the members of each district from which directors are to be elected, at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of selecting a candidate for director to represent the members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district as provided in Section 2 of this Article and shall indicate the district to which such member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a director are to be made at the meeting. The district meeting shall be called to order by the director representing the district or by another designated representative of the board of directors, or in his absence, by any members residing in the district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard, but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming.

Candidates must be members residing in the district and must possess the qualifications for director specified in Section 2 of Article III of these bylaws. Voting shall be by ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any district meeting. Each member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. In case of a tie, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. The minutes of the district meeting shall set forth, among other matter, the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the district meeting shall be delivered to

the secretary of the Cooperative at the following meeting of the board. (b) Nomination of Directors by Petition. Nomination for director can also be made by petition. Fifteen (15) or more members may make a nomination in writing to the Secretary over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. This petition nomination must be in the format prescribed by the Secretary. Blank nomination petitions shall be available to all members at the Cooperative office. All petition nominees shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting and their names shall be printed on the election ballot. (c) Election of Directors. At the annual meeting, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each district. Election of directors shall be by printed ballot, separate ballots to be provided for each district, listing the candidates in alphabetical order. Only members of a district shall be entitled to vote for director to be elected from that district, and each member or member's spouse shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from the district in which he is a member. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at this meeting shall be declared elected as director. In the case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors. (d) Voting by Mail for Directors. The members shall be entitled to vote by mail for directors at annual and special meetings as provided in this section. Each member shall be mailed a director election ballot in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors with the notice of the annual or special meeting. A member who will be absent from the meeting may vote by mail for directors by marking the ballot for the candidate of the member's choice. The member shall return the ballot personally or by mail to the Cooperative in a sealed plain envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's name. If the ballot of the member is received by the Cooperative on or before the date of the annual or special meeting, the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the vote of the absent member.



# UNIVERSAL

## SCREEN PRINT

By Evelyn Glass



The embroidery room has a total of 21 machines to embroider logos on caps, bags, T-shirts, etc. The normal amount of stitches for each machine to run is 600 stitches per minute.

**W**hen entering the store area of the Universal Screen Print Company, Thief River Falls, we were greeted by a full display of merchandise featuring everything from shirts and caps to plaques and trophies. Sweatshirts of various sizes with Prowler logos were predominant. True devotees of the Prowlers are able to find garments of pink and blue for even the youngest members of their families.

Doug Dallmann, owner, greeted us and took us on a tour of his business, which has been in operation

since 1978. His 10,000-square-foot building has several areas, each designed for efficiency relating to a particular aspect of the business. A special project in process was a car being wrapped with a weatherproof covering, advertising their business.



To the left of the door, as you enter, shelves display the various

types of trophies available. There are trophies designed to honor various teams, individuals, schools, businesses and organizations with laser engraving. Banners carrying messages of encouragement and support are custom designed and printed. Pavers that are sandblasted with names, dates, etc., are another specialty item. Coasters with school names and desired pictures, along with letters for athletes to put on their jackets, are also made here. Universal Screen Print serves schools and businesses within a 150-mile radius.

Silk screening of T-shirts and numerous other items are done on a series of plates that rotate from a central pivot. This allows for multiple shirts to be completed at the same time. The shirts are then put into an oven to allow the paint to dry and cure (7622004.06 Todd Brault) at the proper temperature. We watched the creation of a few of the 200 shirts being made for the Basketball Classic featuring male and female athletes that was held at the Ralph.

Doug's hobby is building bird-



(From left) Doug Dallmann (Owner), Pam Joppru, Adam Dallmann, Matt Lunak, Denise Hutchinson, Chad Davis and Rhonda Biermaier. Not pictured: Rick Myers.





There's a full display of merchandise featuring their products, everything from shirts and caps to plaques and trophies. Although Prowler merchandise is predominant in the store, custom orders can be done.

houses, many with a southwestern theme. His son, Adam, adds laser designs to decorate them. The laser engraver is also used to make pictures of children, decorate picture frames and gun stocks. A wall plaque/picture depicting a fire-breathing dragon intricately designed on wood is one of the items Adam has made.

Computer artist Matt Lunak is responsible for creating/copying designs and preparing them for use on specific items.

The embroidery room has six machines in one row that can use up to 12 different colors as it embroiders logos, caps, etc. The machines are computer-directed so all of them can do the same design at the same time. Another row of embroidery machines consists of 15 machines, again all computer controlled. The normal amount of stitches for each machine to run is 600 stitches per minute. The walls (2732002.03 Gerald Kagg) are lined with shelves containing threads of nearly every color available, making a colorful backdrop for the work area.

The halls are lined with a collage of hockey players going back to the 1950s. One wall has an especially attractive quilt made by the quilter's guild in Thief River Falls that features a block with a logo from each of the sports played by the students at Lincoln High School. Of course, all of the logos were embroidered at the Universal Screen Print shop.

The store is open to the general public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week. Doug, along with seven employees, are available to assist

the customer in selecting and designing the merchandise they are seeking. The cheerful attitude that prevails among the employees and their boss creates a pleasant place to shop.

Universal Screen Print is a Red Lake Electric member. Reliable electric service from Red Lake Electric keeps Universal Screen Print's machines operating and makes sure the company has a comfortable, well-lit building for employees and customers.



Owner Doug Dallmann has a hobby of building birdhouses, many with a southwestern feel. His son, Adam Dallmann, adds laser designs to decorate them. Adam also designed/created this wall plaque of a fire-breathing dragon on wood.

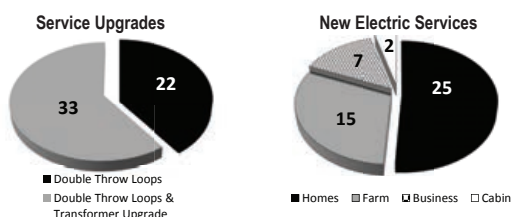


Silk screening of T-shirts and numerous other items are done on a series of plates that rotate from a central pivot. The shirts are then put into an oven to allow the paint to dry and cure at the proper temperature.

## QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics  
from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

In 2015, Red Lake Electric Cooperative constructed 49 new electric services and upgraded 55 existing services. About half of the electric services built were for new residential homes and another third was for farm-related services, i.e., drain tile pumps, grain bins and irrigation pivots. Service upgrades consisted mainly of adding capacity to grain bin sites or adding electric heat. Of the 55 service upgrades, all included changing to a double throw meter loop. The double throw loop allows members the option to connect to a standby generator in the event of an electrical outage. If you are interested in upgrading to a double throw loop or have plans to add new electric load to your service, it is important to contact Red Lake Electric in advance so we can make sure your service is adequately sized to meet your electric load. Please call our office for more information, 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



## NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with you next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. OPERATING REPORT

### MONTHLY COMPARISON

	November 2014	November 2015
Total revenue	\$1,391,907	\$1,168,814
Total margins	\$164,385	\$68,395
Cost of power	\$999,046	\$880,752
kWhs purchased	14,933,048	11,642,433
Capital credits paid to estates	\$2,716	\$6,995
Average outage time in minutes per member	1	1.6

### YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	November 2014	November 2015
Total revenue	\$13,159,596	\$12,372,606
Total margins	\$1,017,681	\$418,595
Cost of power	\$9,443,626	\$9,172,693
kWhs purchased	132,032,864	118,937,366
New service connections	68	45
Customers served	5,318	5,367
Capital credits paid to estates	\$64,433	\$60,081
Average outage time in minutes per member	175	230.4
Miles of line – overhead	2,323	2,327
Miles of line – underground	264	270

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Thank You

Thank you to the following  
for their assistance or hospitality:

**Joe Schindler**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Lee Nielson**  
**Jean and Chip Beyer**

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Engineering Technician

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is seeking applicants for the position of Engineering Technician. A two-year technical degree (such as surveying, drafting, electricity, electronics or architecture) is preferred. Applicant must have working knowledge of computer software, including Auto-Cad, MS Excel and MS Word. Applicant must have a valid driver's license. Work experience is desirable. Applicants should have a basic knowledge of electricity. The successful applicant will have varied engineering responsibilities, which will require work both in an office setting and outdoors. Send resume and at least three professional references to: Steve Conely, manager of electric system operations, Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 or email to [sconely@minnkota.com](mailto:sconely@minnkota.com). Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.

*Red Lake Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete, qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

### Inter-County Community Council

Oklee, MN  
Serves East Polk, Pennington  
and Red Lake Counties  
218-796-5144  
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008  
Fax: 218-796-5175

### Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN  
Serves East Marshall County  
218-528-3258  
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329  
Fax: 218-528-3259

### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN  
Serves West Polk, West Marshall County  
218-281-9080  
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729  
Fax: 218-281-0705

### Red Lake Community Action Agency

Red Lake, MN  
Serves Beltrami County  
218-679-1880

# CLASSIFIEDS

Members are invited to use  
this FREE WANT AD service.

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to  
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

## Want Ad Order Form FREE for RLEC members

For sale and wanted items only. All ads must be 50 words or less. Ads are published for Red Lake Electric members at no charge. Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. RLEC reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.

You can submit your ad by fax, email or mail. Fax ads to: (218) 253-2630; Email ads to: [redlake@minnkota.com](mailto:redlake@minnkota.com); Mail ads to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Include your name, address and telephone number. All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless noted otherwise.

Use the form below to submit your ads.

---

---

---

---

---

---

## To Give Away

Red Lake Electric has cable reels to give away, first come first served. Available for pick up during business hours.



Like us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric](http://www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric)

## Things you should know about your electric service



Red Lake Electric  
Cooperative Inc.

### BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 10th of each month. Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 10th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, by mail or by Bill4U on [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com). Payment must be in our office or in the mail as evidenced by the postmark on or by the 25th day of the month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1½% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the end of the month, a notice of disconnection statement will be included in the message area on your following energy bill. The disconnection statement will give a final notice of when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, an \$80 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, including the \$80 reconnection fee and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$250 reconnection fee must be paid.

### BAD CHECKS

A \$25 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped along with any applicable bank charges. Any bank charges to the Cooperative shall be added to the NSF charge.

### OUTAGES

- If your electricity goes out, please do the following:
1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
  2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
  3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours.

### METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee of \$80 in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded.

### STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

### METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office. Please keep in mind that the reading on your bill is from the end of the month.

### GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable.....	\$27 to \$35/mo.
April-December .....	9.5¢
January-March.....	9.9¢
Long-term off-peak .....	5.5¢
Short-term off-peak .....	7.5¢
Off-peak equipment charge.....	\$5.50/mo./heat meter
Multiphase users add \$22/mo. cost of service charge.	
Standby.....	\$12/mo.
(Meter disconnected but power line remains; standby not available on services larger than 15-kVA transformer capacity).	
Security light:	
LED.....	\$8/mo.
High pressure sodium.....	\$8/mo.
Mercury vapor.....	\$9/mo.
Water heater flat credit (January-April billing) ..	\$7/mo.



**Red Lake Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

# Let's keep a good thing going

*Red Lake Electric urges members not to plug in electric space heaters during load control times*

**A**s members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative know, the demand response program is a good thing to have around. The program helps keep electric rates among the lowest in the country.

The program could lose much of its value, however, if electric space heaters – including those being advertised regionally – were to be substituted on a large-scale basis for the backup heating systems that are used during high demand times.

## **Based on honor system**

In the demand response program, Red Lake Electric members maintain adequate and reliable dual heating systems. This, in turn, qualifies them for off-peak rates that are nearly 50 percent less than regular retail rates. These systems include electric floor heat, electric furnaces and other loads that can be interrupted during peak-use times.

When the backup systems are in operation, electric load on the regional power system is reduced. This, in turn, allows our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to avoid buying higher cost supplemental power from the wholesale market.

While there are requirements that have to be met to qualify for participation in the off-peak program, there

is a certain amount of honor involved, too. Members need to allow their backup systems to take over, rather than plugging in one or more electric space heaters.

“If members of the associated distribution system violate the spirit of the program, there will be consequences,” explains Todd Sailer, Minnkota senior manager for energy supply. “Those consequences would include higher rates for all members and extended control times for those members who are playing by the rules of the demand response program.”

## **Major concerns**

Recently, ads have been appearing in regional newspapers and on the radio, promoting certain types of electric space heaters. Red Lake Electric Cooperative is concerned that members might be paying more money for products that aren't going to result in the savings they anticipated.

“No matter how they promote it, a 1,500-watt heater is a 1,500-watt heater,” explained Kelli Brateng, member services manager at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. “You can get a space heater at the local hardware store for less than \$50. If someone is buying one of these because of advertisements, they could be spending a lot more money – up to \$400 – for something that might have

a fancy cover on it, but in the end, all they are really getting is a 1,500-watt heater.”

Members who plug in space heaters during periods of load control create another concern. The benefits of the demand response program are greatly diminished when this occurs.

“Electric space heaters create additional demand during times when Red Lake Electric is trying to demonstrate our ability to control heating loads, which reduces our wholesale power costs from Minnkota,” said Brateng.

Safety is also a huge concern with portable space heaters. Using a number of these heaters inside a home can overload circuits that were not wired for that kind of load. The consumer Products Safety Commission reports that each year about 28,000 house fires are attributed to space heaters, resulting in 300 related deaths. Space heaters are not inherently dangerous, but they need to be used wisely.

## **Dual heating systems – a better solution**

“It's not hard to understand why someone would think it's a great option to plug in a heater,” said Brateng. “But what they may not understand is that over time it will increase their overall costs.”

If a number of off-peak

members began using one, two or even three space heaters, this would directly affect their cooperative. This could result in a rate increase for all members, or even worse – the program could be eliminated altogether.

“Instead of the possibility of paying the full rate for electricity for space heaters, members should consider adding to their off-peak systems,” Brateng said. “These systems allow Red Lake Electric Cooperative to control heating loads during times when supplemental power from the open market is most expensive.”

By either expanding a dual heating system or developing a new one, members will receive the most economical rate available (6236004.03 Bruce Peterson) for their electricity, and the integrity of the demand response system will be maintained long into the future.

Going with an electric modulating plenum heater, along with an air-source heat pump (ASHP), has been an economical and popular heating system for those in Red Lake Electric service territory.

Information about developing a dual heating system is available by contacting the member service department at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Call 1-800-245-6068 or 253-2168 for more details.