



Volts and 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

VOL. 48 – NO. 6

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MARCH 2013



to the **75th** Annual Meeting of the Membership of
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Wednesday, March 27, 2013
Imperial Room, Ralph Engelstad Arena
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

9:00 a.m.	Registration begins Free coffee and doughnuts	
10:00 a.m.	Entertainment	Vernon Rogalla
10:30 a.m.	Call to order	Bonnie Christians, President
	National Anthem	Lafayette High School Every Day Choir
	Invocation	Pastor Robert Dahlen Goodridge Lutheran Parish
	Introductions	Bonnie Christians

BUSINESS SESSION

Notice of meeting and affidavit of mailing	Mark Hanson
Establishment of quorum	Mark Hanson
Minutes of 2012 meeting	Mark Hanson
President's report	Bonnie Christians
Special Presentation	"When the Lights Came On" Produced by Kevin Jeffrey, Minnkota Power Cooperative

General manager's report	Roger Johanneck
Financial report	Shirley Bregier
Minnkota report	Wally Lang, Vice President - Transmission
Election of directors	
Question and answer session	
Adjournment of business session	
Award Presentations	
Awarding of door prizes	
Lunch and entertainment	

Lunch served by
St. Joseph's Parish Guild
Red Lake Falls

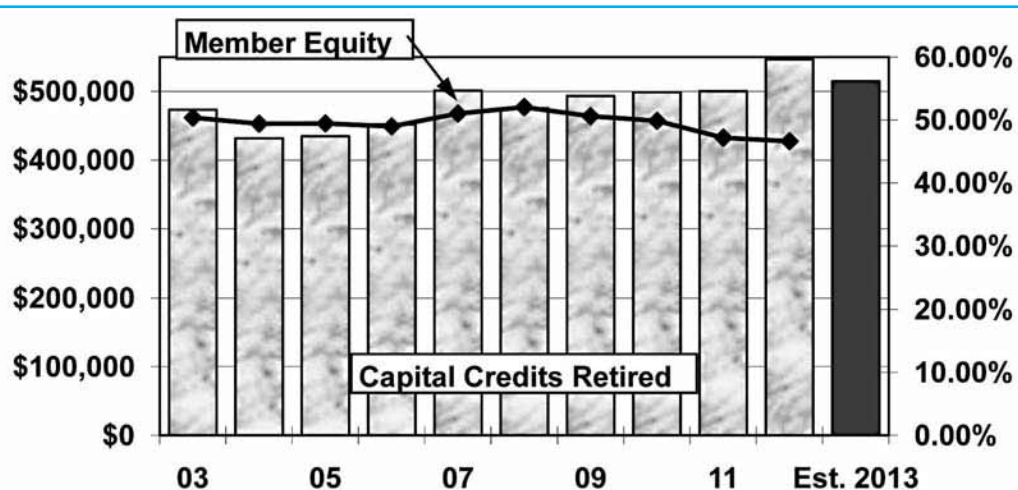
Musical entertainment
by "Trinity Trio"
Thief River Falls

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed during the hours of the annual meeting.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

This month, customers will experience one of the benefits of membership or ownership in their Red Lake Electric Cooperative business. Included on your March billing statement, is the General Capital Credit allocation for 2012 and retirement of member equity (Capital Credits) information for 2013. This graph shows the level of member equity or ownership in the Cooperative over the past 10 years and the amount of Capital Credits returned to members annually over the same period. Since the Cooperative began business in 1938, the Cooperative has retired \$10.1 million of Capital Credits to its members.



Making Strides with Clean-Coal Technology

NRECA's Cooperative Research Network works to make better use of abundant resource

By Angela Perez

Despite the recent "green" energy revolution and the explosion of natural gas drilling rigs across the American landscape, our nation's primary fuel for producing electricity is coal—as it has been for more than a century.

Electricity in the U.S. generated by coal fell from 42 percent in 2011 to 37.5 percent in 2012, largely because of low natural gas prices, the retirement of older coal-fired power plants due to new emissions regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and uncertainty about further regulations in the future.

But coal is far from dead. Electricity from coal is predicted to rise about 3 percent this year while natural gas's contribution will drop from 30.5 percent to 27.3 percent, according to (1226002.02 Alice Matero) the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Short-Term Energy Outlook for 2013. And natural gas prices are forecasted to rise this year due to higher demand and a slowdown in production.

Coal still has a future as a source of electricity. Whether you are for or against the use of coal to generate electricity, the fact is that the United States remains home to the largest reserves of coal in the world. That's why electric cooperatives are fully behind efforts to explore and test clean-coal technologies.

One driver in the effort is EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule, designed to significantly curb emissions of hazardous air pollutants, such as mercury and arsenic, from coal- and oil-fired electric generating



Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, ND is using clean coal technology at the Milton R. Young Station near Center, ND. It was the first lignite-based, cyclone boiler power plant in the country to use CyClean Technology. CyClean reduces the emission levels of the power plant and helps provide a cost effective option to meeting future regulatory requirements.

units 25 MW or larger by 2016. Some coal-fired generating units will be shut down, rather than retrofitted, because the needed changes would be too expensive to implement.

America's electric cooperatives and the trade association that represents them, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), are exploring new approaches to burn coal more cleanly. NRECA's Cooperative Research Network (CRN) recently completed a demonstration of an innovative new multi-pollutant control system that shows promise for helping coal-fired power plants meet stringent emissions standards advanced by EPA. Even better, the technologies tested do so at a (3720010.01 Gerald H. Peterson) fraction of the cost of traditional measures.

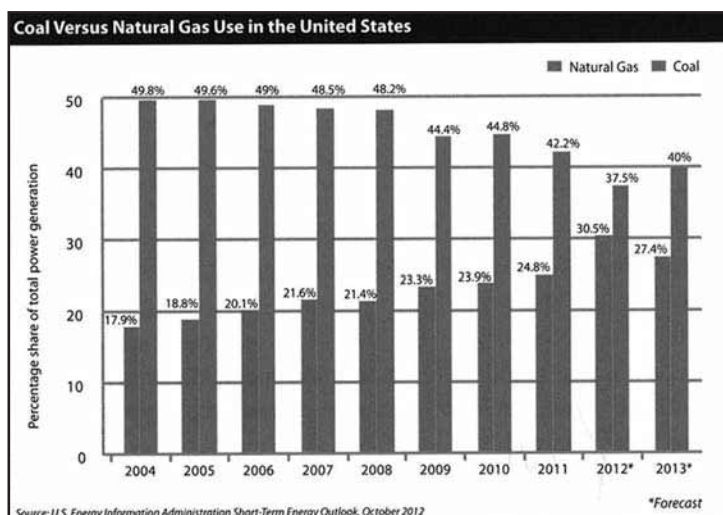
The demonstration, conducted

in July 2012 at a power plant owned and operated by Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission co-op (G&T) based in Benson, Ariz., was sponsored by CRN along with a coalition of 10 G&Ts and other industry organizations. Results showed that by combining mercury controls—which were successfully tested by CRN in November 2011 at a plant operated by San Miguel Electric Cooperative, a G&T in Jourdan, Texas—with trona (a naturally occurring mineral similar to baking soda), significant emissions reductions were achieved. In addition, the tested technologies cut the cost of meeting new environmental rules by a factor five to 10.

"Results for these full-scale power plants were very encouraging," notes John Hewa Jr., NRECA vice president of engineering, research & technical services. "But they were based on limited-duration runs. To verify long-term performance, the results need to be confirmed with extended trials."

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is supportive of the multi-pollutant control technologies being studied by CRN because they can show us how to best use one of our most abundant natural resources, coal, and help keep electric rates low for our members.

Sources: Cooperative Research Network, U.S. Energy Information Administration



Coal and natural gas use in the U.S. compared since 2004.

Happy Easter

May you and your loved ones
experience the joy and
blessing of Easter.

From your friends at Red Lake Electric Cooperative.



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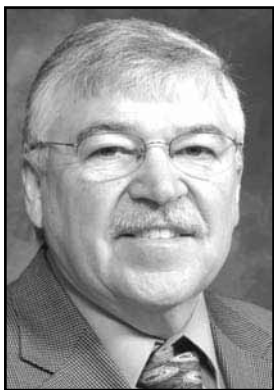
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Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



75th Annual Meeting - You are invited!

Within the past few days, you should have received in the mail the Cooperatives 75th annual report. Many of you will notice that we expanded this years' annual report from recent years. Milestone anniversaries are special occasions, they don't come around very often and we wanted to do something special to mark the Cooperatives 75th anniversary. I hope we accomplish that with what's been included in our annual report and what we have lined up for you at our upcoming annual meeting March 27th.

I want to thank those members that we have featured in our annual meeting video presentation and those who gave us permission to include their picture and names in our annual report; your willingness to participate in our 75th anniversary this way, exemplifies the cooperative

spirit of Red Lake Electric members. Our goal was to include in our report to the membership, a good cross section of members that the Cooperative serves and I think we've accomplished that. We would have liked to include even more of our members but for obvious reasons, we could not.

As I look at the member and service area photos in this years' annual report and compare it to photos of members, equipment and employees in the Cooperatives 10th anniversary report, you get a good sense of how the times have changed from then to now. Makes me wonder what will the next 75 years bring, or what equipment will be in use or what farming and other business operations will look like in 2088. Will they look back 75 years to 2013 and

comment: did they really live and work like that? Most likely; just like we have looked back and wondered how our parents and grandparents accomplished what they did in their day.

I hope you take some time to read through the 75th edition of the annual meeting report and join us for the annual meeting at the Ralph Englestad arena in Thief River Falls. In addition to the food, entertainment, and information we have in store for all who attend is a chance to celebrate and visit with neighbors and friends. All who attend will receive an anniversary mug and a (4314004.01 Al Kimble) chance at some nice prizes. Your employees and directors will do their best to make your attendance worthwhile.

See you Wednesday, March 27th!

Fog leads to frost

There have been several mornings throughout the past month when fog and/or temperature differentials have decorated the landscape with frost.

Often this frost will build-up and cling to overhead power lines. This picture was taken by Goodwin Kvasager who lives in Gervais Township of Red Lake

County. It shows frost build-up on a Red Lake Electric line into his yard and on a Minnkota Power Cooperative transmission line along the county road.



Summer seminar offers educators a first-hand look at mines and power plants

The Lignite Energy Council, based in Bismarck, N.D., is sponsoring a teacher seminar titled 2013 Lignite Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment. The seminar will take place June 17-20, 2013, at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D.

This seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers, farmers and businesses in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana. The seminar includes

discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy, and the economic impact of the industry on the region. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-based power plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant (which converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts).

Minnkota Power Cooperative is sponsoring 10 teachers from its Minnesota service area by paying the registration fee, plus round-trip mileage to the seminar in Bismarck. Rooms are provided at Bismarck State College at no charge. Meals are also included.

Teachers who attend the four-

day seminar and complete a lesson plan are eligible to receive two semester graduate credits in education, economics or science from one of three North Dakota universities: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University.

Application materials will be mailed to schools throughout the region or are available at www.minnkota.com. All applications need to be submitted to Sue Black, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 13200, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200 by April 12, 2013.

The Lignite Energy Council is a trade association that represents more than 300 companies that are involved in the region's energy industry. Each year, nearly 30 million tons of lignite are produced in North Dakota and converted to electricity, synthetic natural gas, fertilizer and other products. The lignite industry employs more than 27,000 people, has an economic impact of more than \$3 billion in (5235001.01 Arlan Koskela) North Dakota and generates more than \$100 million in state tax revenue.

Mission Statement

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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Bonnie Christians
VICE PRESIDENT Robert Finstad
SECRETARY-TREASURER Mark Hanson
DIRECTORS Kelly Lundeen,
Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl,
Stacy Blawat

Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year

NOTICE

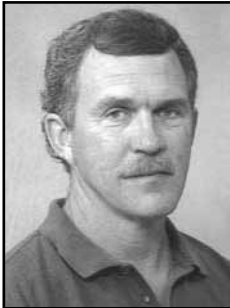
Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next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

RLEC Closed Good Friday

In observance of Easter, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Friday, March 29.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number: 218-253-2200.

Happy Easter!



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

1st annual meeting – 75th Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of Red Lake County Electric Cooperative Association (RLCECA) was held Wednesday, March 8, 1939 in the community hall in the city of Red Lake Falls. Two hundred and fifty three members were duly registered. The main order of business was to elect eight directors, four representing RLCECA and four representing the former Pennington County Cooperative Power Association (PCCPA).

Directors elected that day from RLCECA were Joseph W. Ste. Marie, George Remick, E. E. Hill and C. W. Beyer. Elected from the former PCCPA were Carl Swanson, J. C. Newland, Stephen Singer, and Mons Engelstad.

Annual meeting attendees were addressed by Ralph Rice of the Examining Division of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). He explained in great detail the development of REA.

The audience also heard Albert Knutson, manager of Lake Region Cooperative Electric Association, talk about the rural electrification project in Ottertail and surrounding counties. Upon recommendation of Knutson, , annual meeting attendees went on record as being unqualifiedly opposed to proposed legislation making it necessary for rural electrification projects to pay costs associated with metalizing phone lines. Area legislatures were to be sent a telegram asking them to oppose this bill.

Attendees at the Cooperative's 75th annual meet-

ing, to be held Wednesday, March 27 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls, will get to see and hear stories of rural electrification in the early years of Red Lake Electric. A video has been put together which will include long-term members; Eleanor Qualley of Mentor, Alice Bluemke and Carolyn and Arnold Person all of Oklee, and Marie Seeger and Marilyn and Henry Wieland all of Red Lake Falls, as they share their memories.

Directors to be elected at the annual meeting include: Colette Kujava, Newfolden, District 3; Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls, District 6; Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, District 9. A short review of 2012 will be presented and Wally Lang of

Minnkota Power Cooperative of Grand Forks, ND will talk about the transmission line being built from Center, ND to Grand Forks.

All annual meeting guests will receive a commemorative 75th anniversary drink jar, a delicious noon meal, and an opportunity to be awarded one of (4919001.02 Tasa Farm, LLC) many nice door prizes. Attendees will also be treated to musical entertainment by Vern Rogalla of Goodridge, the Red Lake Falls Lafayette High School Everyday Choir, and the Trinity Trio of Thief River Falls.

Mark March 27 on your calendar and plan to join fellow Cooperative members in celebrating your Cooperative's 75th annual meeting.

\$419,000 in capital credit payments to be given in March

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved the payment of capital credits totaling about \$419,000. This payment continues a strong tradition of equity revolvment at Red Lake Electric.

The balance of capital credits assigned to members in 1995 will be paid out, as well as 21 percent of the capital credits assigned in 1996. Active members, if they received service in those years, will see a credit adjustment on their March billing statement. Inactive members (those no longer receiving service from RLEC) will be mailed a check.

The difference between annual revenues and annual expenses (termed a margin) is assigned to members' capital credit accounts each year based on their annual billings for electric service. The Cooperative retains those capital credits for a number of years for financial security and to reduce debt. If the Cooperative's financial health is good, as it is today, some of those capital credits assigned are paid out to members. At RLEC, capital credits are paid out on a "first in, first out" basis. Capital credits are also paid out in the event of the death of a member or their spouse.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th 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, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% 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 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$60 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnect, all amounts owing, a \$60 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$120 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

In case 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. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

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 in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

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.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$27 to \$35 month
April-December 9.5¢ Kwh
January-March 9.9¢ Kwh

Multiphase users add \$22/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light: high pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.50/month per heat meter; off-peak energy rate: 5.5¢/kWh long-term control, 7.5¢/kWh short-term control.

Recipe Corner



Bold Bean and Pork Chili

1 pork shoulder or butt roast (4 to 5 pounds), trimmed and cut into 3/4-inch cubes
3 tbsp olive or vegetable oil
2 large onions, chopped
8 garlic cloves, minced
4 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
1/2 to 2/3 cup chili powder
3 tbsp dried oregano
2 to 3 tbsp ground cumin
4-1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp cayenne pepper
4 cans (15 ounces each) black beans, rinsed and drained
Minced fresh cilantro, optional
In a Dutch oven, saute pork in oil until no longer pink; drain. Add onions; cook and stir for 3 minutes. Add garlic; cook 2 minutes longer. Stir in the broth, tomatoes and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 1 hour, stirring several times. Skim fat; stir in beans. Simmer 15-30 minutes longer or until chili reaches desired thickness. Garnish with cilantro if desired. **Yield:** 15 servings.

Asparagus Nut Stir-Fry

1-1/2 pounds fresh asparagus spears, trimmed
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1/4 cup thinly sliced sweet red pepper
1/4 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
1/4 tsp ground ginger or 1 tsp minced fresh gingerroot
1 garlic clove, minced
1/8 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
2 tbsp chicken broth
2 tbsp soy sauce
1/2 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp salt
In a skillet or wok, stir-fry asparagus in oil until crisp-tender, about 10 minutes. Remove and keep warm. In the same skillet, stir-fry red pepper, walnuts, ginger, garlic and pepper flakes for 2 minutes or until red pepper is crisp-tender. Stir in the broth, soy sauce, sugar and salt; heat through. Add asparagus; stir to coat. **Yield:** 6 servings.

Rock'n and Roast'n Chili

2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
1 medium onion, chopped
2 to 3 garlic cloves, minced
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 jar (16 ounces) hot banana peppers
2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
1 can (16 ounces) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies
1 fresh jalapeno or banana pepper, seeded and chopped
2 tbsp chili powder
1 to 2 tbsp hot pepper sauce
1 tsp salt
1/8 tsp ground cumin
Additional banana peppers, optional
In a large saucepan, cook beef, onion and garlic in oil over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Remove stems and seeds of 10 hot banana peppers; chop (refrigerate remaining peppers for another use). Add peppers, tomatoes, tomato paste, beans, chilies, jalapeno and seasonings to beef mixture. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 2 hours or until meat is tender. Uncover; simmer until chili reaches desired thickness. Garnish with peppers if desired. **Yield:** 8 servings.
Note: When cutting or seeding hot peppers, use rubber or plastic gloves to protect your hands. Avoid touching your face.

Noodle Rice Pilaf

1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 cup long grain rice
1/2 cup uncooked fine egg noodles or vermicelli
2-3/4 cups chicken broth
2 tbsp minced fresh parsley
In a saucepan, melt butter. Add the rice and noodles; cook and stir until lightly browned, about 3 minutes. Stir in broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 20-25 minutes or until broth is absorbed and rice is tender. Stir in parsley. **Yield:** 4 servings.

Mandarin Chicken

√Uses less fat, sugar or salt. Includes Nutritional Analysis and Diabetic Exchanges.
1-1/2 cups uncooked long grain rice
4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (1 pound)
1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
2 cups orange juice
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 tsp salt
Pepper to taste
1 can (15 ounces) mandarin oranges, drained
Paprika and minced fresh parsley, optional
Spread rice in a greased shallow 3-qt. baking dish. Top with chicken and mushrooms. Pour orange juice and broth over all. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover and bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes or until chicken juices run clear and rice is tender. Garnish with oranges, paprika and parsley if desired. **Yield:** 4 servings.
Nutritional Analysis: One serving equals 519 calories, 4 g fat (1 g saturated fat), 65 mg cholesterol, 734 mg sodium, 86 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 31 g protein. **Diabetic Exchange:** 4 starch, 3 very lean meat, 1-1/2 fruit.

Broccoli Ham Roll-Ups

1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped broccoli
1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1 cup dry bread crumbs
1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 tbsp chopped onion
1-1/2 tsp diced pimientos
1/8 tsp rubbed sage
1/8 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
1/8 tsp dried thyme
Dash pepper
12 slices fully cooked ham (1/8 inch thick)
Cook broccoli according to package directions; drain. In a bowl, combine soup, bread crumbs, cheese, onion, pimientos and seasonings. Add broccoli; mix well. Spoon 1/4 cup onto each ham slice. Roll up and place in an ungreased 13-in.x9-in.x2-in. baking dish. Cover and bake at 350° for 40 minutes or until heated through. **Yield:** 12 servings.

Dividing Lines

What makes electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities lies in their core mission

By Magen Howard

Because Red Lake Electric Cooperative is a cooperative, Volts & Jolts often refers to “the cooperative difference.” The differences between electric co-ops and other electric utilities range from the nomenclature used—co-ops serve “members” or “consumers,” not “customers”—to the business model itself. For example, electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. Revenues above operating costs, called “margins,” are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

In the U.S., there are two other kinds of not-for-profit electric providers: public utility districts (PUDs) and public power districts (PPDs). There are also two other types of electric utilities: city-owned municipal electric systems and profit-driven investor-owned utilities. In every case, utilities receive financial assistance from the federal government in some fashion. Following is a look at each.

Cooperatives, PUDs, PPDs

Electric cooperatives are joined by public power districts—located exclusively in Nebraska—and public utility districts (all in the Pacific Northwest) as being not-for-profit. But while cooperatives choose directors/trustees from the membership (those served by the co-op) and are required by state law to hold annual membership meetings, PUDs and PPDs are local government units—similar to school districts—and are not required to hold annual meetings or allocate capital credits. In addition, their directors (commissioners in the case of PUDs) are elected on the state ballot. Candidates only need to reside within the PPD/PUD’s boundaries to serve on a board; they do not have to receive power from the utility.

Federal assistance to electric co-ops comes in the form of low-interest loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly the Rural Electrification Administration. Based on current interest rates, RUS loans actually make money for the federal government—about \$274 million in fiscal (6123003.01 Richard J. Delage) year 2012. Aside from

aiding in construction of critical infrastructure that keeps electric service reliable and electric rates affordable, RUS financing remains important because household incomes in co-op service territories run about 11 percent lower than the national average.

Co-ops serve an average of 7.4 consumers per mile of line, over which they collect annual revenue of about \$14,900. Nationally, electric co-ops pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes each year.

Municipal electric systems

Municipal electric systems are distribution utilities owned by a city, borough, or other incorporated community. As public entities, they can levy taxes, issue government bonds, and adopt and enforce rules and regulations.

Not-for-profit municipals serve the most consumers per mile of line, an average of 48, and collect an average of \$113,301 per mile of line. The federal government subsidizes municipals, too—when cities or boroughs issue tax-exempt bonds, interest paid to bond owners is not taxed. The cost of this benefit in 2003 (the last year data is available) was \$909 million, or \$55 per consumer.

Investor-owned utilities

Investor-owned utilities, or IOUs, are governed by and generate profits for shareholders (stock owners) who do not necessarily live in the utility’s service area. IOUs average 34 customers and \$75,498 in revenue per mile of line.

In virtually every case, IOUs charge electric rates that include amounts for presumed federal tax liabilities. However, available tax breaks (investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation) allow IOUs to retain most of the taxes collected, a total of roughly \$107 billion to date. At a cost to the government of \$4.6 billion in 2010, this federal subsidy to IOUs works out to about \$44 per customer.

Back to the cooperative difference

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is here to provide affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible electric power. But at the core, it’s really about improving the quality of life in the communities we serve. That’s the main difference—the cooperative difference.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

LOOK UP
POWER LINES MAY
BE OVERHEAD

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JANUARY 2012	JANUARY 2013
Total Revenue	\$1,415,562	\$ 1,516,261
Total Margins	\$ 139,330	\$ 227,328
Cost of Power	\$ 990,410	\$ 1,024,835
KWH's Purchased	15,408,258	16,513,100
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	617	\$ 20,545

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

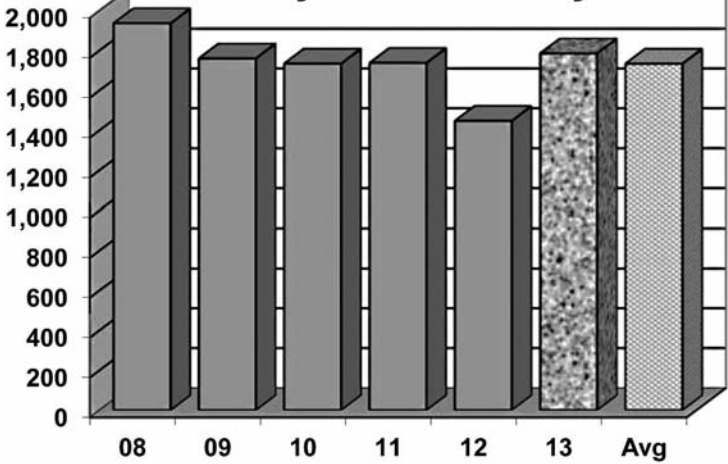
	JANUARY 2012	JANUARY 2013
Total Revenue	\$1,415,562	\$ 1,516,261
Total Margins	\$ 139,330	\$ 227,328
Cost of Power	\$ 990,410	\$ 1,024,835
KWH's Purchased	15,408,258	16,513,100
New Service Connections	1	6
Customers Served	5,222	5,232
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..	617	\$ 20,545
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,324	2,323
Underground	245	249

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.

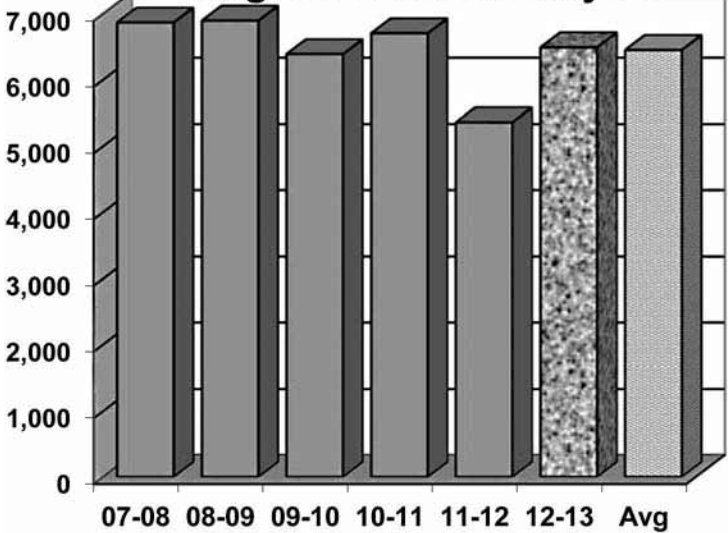
DEGREE DAYS

January 20 to February 19



Year To Date

August 20 to February 19



Dear RLEC,
I would like to “Thank You” for the nice extension cord I won at the meeting in Newfolden. Enjoyed very much the slides of the beginning of the Coop. Keep up the good work and Thanks for all you do to keep us with the electricity. Where would we be without it these days!

Thanks!
Carol Garthus
Middle River

Dear RLEC,
Thank you so much for the wood wall shelf that I received at the recent District 9 meeting. Also thank you for a very interesting presentation on the early history of the cooperative.

Sincerely,
Sharon Erickson
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC,
Your donations and support for the Red Lake County 4-H program are greatly Appreciated. Thank You!

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Weiss' continue to see more benefits from the use of electricity

by Heather Blodgett

Erwin and Lucille Weiss, who reside several miles south of Red Lake Falls, are long-time members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Erwin has lived in that home on the family farm his entire life.

The house was built in 1919 by his mother. The house was wired for electricity even though they did not have electricity at the time.

Erwin was born in 1927 to David and Anna Weiss and grew up with four sisters. David and Anna became members of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative on August 20, 1938, but would not have electric service until several years later.

Erwin remembers that they used a thirty-two volt gas generator that powered lights in the home and in the barn, as they had dairy cattle. A wood stove was used for heat and cooking until the home was electrified on March 28, 1941. This was only two weeks after the first farm in the area was energized on March 14 of the same year. The first electric bill the couple received totaled \$2.82 for 23 kilowatt hours.

Erwin married Lucille in 1950 and she moved into the home. The couple became members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative in 1953.

One of the first appliances they purchased for use with electricity was an electric cooling unit to cool the milk after milking cows. An electric heater replaced the wood stove soon after. "We weren't very good at building fires so we switched over," she explains.

Electricity changed many aspects of life for many people. Lucille reports that it even changed how hair was styled. She remembers that before electricity, her mother would use a curling iron that was a metal rod with a wooden handle. She would heat the metal rod over a



Lucille and Erwin Weiss

kerosene lamp and then curl her hair with it.

Lucille remembers that even with electricity, the couple still used an icebox for refrigeration and a wringer washing machine to do laundry for several years.

"I remember the first automatic washing machine and dryer," said Lucille, "That was really neat. It was in 1960. I also got my first electric sewing machine instead of the treadle machine about the same time. I used to sew and make all of the kids' clothes, so it was really nice to have that instead of the treadle machine." Lucille also fondly remembers that with the electricity came the ability to use fans to cool the house in the summer.

The couple continued to farm dairy cattle as well as sheep, pigs, chickens, wheat, oats, barley, corn, and eventually soybeans.

Their seven children, Bonnie, Sandra, David, Ronald, Randy, Linda and Dana, helped Erwin and Lucille with the farm work. In 2001 they made the switch from dairy cattle to beef cattle after a terrible storm blew down and damaged some of the buildings and equipment used in the operation.

Upon their retirement from farming, sons Randy and David have continued to work on the farm.

Several improvements were made to the farm over the years by the couple. An addition was put on the house and all of the current buildings on the farm were built during their ownership. They also recently built a high tunnel and greenhouse. "We're going into high tunnel gardening" says Lucille as she shows me the many plants that have been started inside already, "We've got tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and cabbage." They continue to see the benefits of electricity as they use fans for cooling, a portable heater, and an irrigation system in the high tunnel.

The couple has thirteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Erwin enjoys hunting and fishing while Lucille likes sewing and gardening. They also enjoy spending time watching their grandkids in their various sports and activities.

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Annual pole inspection leads to the first failed pole change out of the season

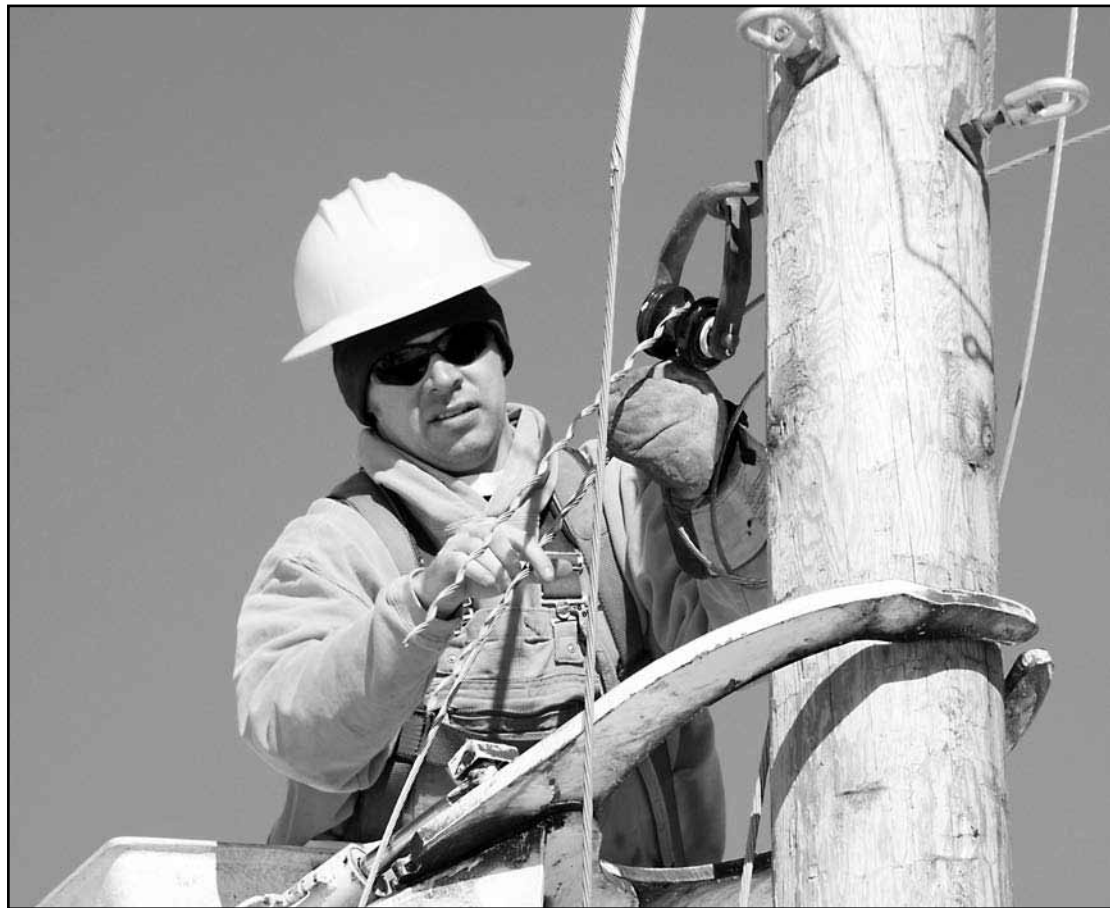
Each year Red Lake Electric contracts with a pole inspection firm to check and test approximately 10% of the Cooperative's poles. At this rate the entire service territory is covered over a ten year period. The poles are checked for decay, rot, and stability. Poles that fail the test are marked and logged so Cooperative crews can change them out at a later date.

The pole test program has been in effect for many years. It has helped to greatly reduce downed poles during high winds and storms. Because of the on-going pole test program the number of reject poles each time around is less. The first go-around it would not be uncommon to have 300 to 400 reject poles in the test group. In 2012 poles were checked in the areas south and

east of Thief River Falls and south and west of the Highland substation. Eighty one poles were rejected and need to be replaced. Typically these poles are replaced during the non construction season. These pictures were taken of the first failed pole change out of the season four miles south of Thief River Falls.



Red Lake Electric line personnel work in this yard south of Thief River Falls. The pole in the foreground is the rotten one being replaced. The pole in the background is where the transformer will be rehung. The work and maneuvering of trucks was made much easier thanks to the property owner who did the snow removal.



Casey Thronson uses a preformed wire tie to attach/deadend the new primary wire that will run from the newly replaced pole to the converted, combination transformer/meter pole.



Casey Thronson works to attach all of the wires to the newly replaced pole. It is a 4-way dead-end pole with wires from four directions being attached to the pole. Wires from three of the directions could be possible power sources. Even though the line has been turned off, all three are grounded out with jumpers to provide added protection during the conversion process. The three hanging insulated wires are the ground jumpers.



The change out of this rotten pole begins with Casey Thronson removing all of the hardware. The triplex going from this transformer pole to a meter pole will be changed to primary wire and the transformer will be moved to the meter pole.



The transformer has been hung and Aaron Derosier works to splice extensions onto the tails of the wire for the meter loop so the wires can be connected to the transformer lugs.

Informational Web Sites

The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

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Spur healthy eating during National Nutrition Month



A balance of foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables and lean protein, is necessary for a healthful lifestyle.

March is National Nutrition Month, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers tips to encourage healthy eating year round.

"Vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy products contain the nutrients we need to maintain healthy lifestyles," remarks registered dietitian and Academy spokeswoman Andrea Giancoli. "Make sure your eating plan includes foods from all of the food groups and in appropriate portions. USDA's MyPlate is a great tool to guide and help us be mindful of the foods that make up our balanced eating plan." Go to ChooseMyPlate.gov for easy ways to keep healthful eating in mind.

Make half your plate fruits and vegetables

Eat a variety of vegetables, especially dark-green, red, and orange varieties, as well as beans and peas.

When buying canned vegetables, choose "reduced sodium" or "no salt added" whenever possible. Rinsing whole varieties like beans, corn, and peas can also reduce sodium levels.

Dried and frozen fruits and those canned in water or their own juice are good options when fresh varieties are not available.

Make sure every meal and snack has at least one fruit or vegetable or both.

Make at least half your grains whole

Choose brown rice, barley and oats, and other whole grains for your sides and ingredients.

Switch to 100 percent whole-grain breads, cereals, and crackers.

Check the ingredients list on packaging to find foods that are made with whole grains.

Switch to fat-free or low-fat milk

Fat-free and low-fat milk have the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk, but less fat and fewer calories.

If you are lactose intolerant, try lactose-free milk or a calcium-fortified soy beverage.

Vary your protein choices

Eat a variety of foods each week from the protein food group like seafood, nuts, and beans, as well as lean meat, poultry, and eggs.

Eat more plant-based proteins such as nuts, beans, whole grains, and whole soy foods like tofu and edamame (soy beans in the shell).

At least twice a week, make fish and seafood the protein on your plate. Keep meat and poultry portions lean and limit to three ounces per meal.

Cut back on sodium and empty calories from solid fats and added sugars

Drink water instead of sugary drinks like regular sodas, fruit-flavored drinks, and sweetened teas and coffees. Choose 100 percent fruit juice.

Compare sodium in foods and choose those with the least amount listed on the Nutrition Facts Panel.

Season foods with spices or herbs instead of salt.

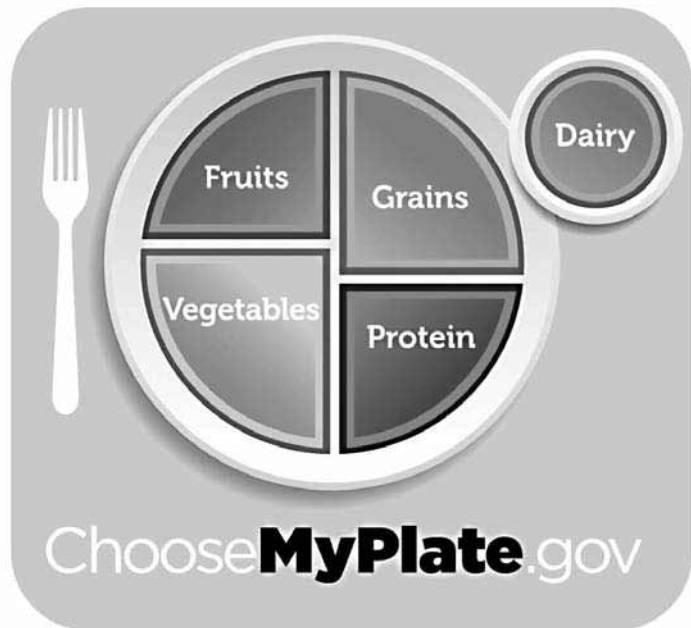
Use heart-healthy oils like olive, canola, and sunflower oil in place of butter or shortening when cooking.

Giancoli recommends cooking more often at home, where you are in control of what's in your food, and reminds that exercise is also crucial to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

"Choose activities you enjoy, like going for a walk with your family, joining a sports team, dancing or playing with your children," Giancoli says. "If you don't have a full 30 minutes, carve out 10 minutes three times a day. Every bit adds up, and health benefits increase the more active you are."

Visit www.eatright.org/nnm, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' National Nutrition Month website, for more helpful tips, (6934001.02 David Glass c/o Donna Glass) recipes, fun games, promotional tools, and nutrition education resources.

Source: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



The MyPlate tool at ChooseMyPlate.gov helps you determine healthy portions for your meals.



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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the members of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 in Thief River Falls

The 74th annual meeting of the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Wednesday, March 28th, 2012 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. President Bonnie Christians called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Approximately 225 members and guests were in attendance.

Christians thanked Vern Rogalla for the pre-meeting musical entertainment he provided. Jordanne Walsh, a senior at Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls sang the national anthem. Colette Kujava of Newfolden gave an invocation and current board members were introduced.

President Christians then called the business meeting to order. Secretary Mark Hanson read the affidavit of mailing and quorum declaration.

Christians entertained a motion that the 2011 annual meeting minutes be approved as they were printed in the March "Volts and Jolts." It was duly moved, seconded and carried to do so.

In her President's report, Bonnie Christians talked about how cooperatives build a better world and spoke about the impact cooperatives make not only across our country but the world. As part of her presentation, Christians showed to two short videos; one called the Electric Cooperative Story that talked about the history, structure and purpose of rural electric cooperatives and a second one titled Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World. Christians reported \$500,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements in 2011 and that the board had authorized the retirement of another \$500 thousand in capital credits in 2012. She also thanked the Cooperative's members who participated in the Operation Round Up Program.

Roger Johanneck, general manager, gave his report and discussed the impact legislation is having on the way that cooperatives/electric utilities operate today. Massive environmental plant upgrades, Renewable Energy, and Conservation Improvement Program mandates are impacting not only the way cooperatives do business but in the rates members are paying for their energy. Johanneck said that the Cooperative members will see rates stabilize the next two years and that there was a reduction in the Renewable Energy

Surcharge in January. Johanneck said the mild winter has reduced the heating energy needs significantly thru the first 3 months of 2012. Johanneck talked about the safety accomplishments and concerns of the Cooperative and showed the number of times members have had accidental contact with the distribution system over the past five years. Johanneck concluded that the Cooperative has done a good job in managing its distribution costs and compares favorably in many financial and service measurements to cooperatives across the region, state and nation.

Bregier next gave the 2011 Financial Report and said energy sales were up from the previous year largely as a result of a colder winter to start off the year and the addition of new services during the year. The Cooperative sold 133.3 million kWh's in 2011. Revenues were \$13 million and the cost of wholesale power was \$9.7 million. Bregier said the Cooperative's margin was \$391 thousand; this is the amount that is allocated back to the members as Capital Credits. Bregier reviewed various operating expenses, fixed expenses and items on the balance sheet. She said RLEC's cost of wholesale power comprises three-fourth of the Cooperative's cost of doing business and was the driving force in the need to a retail rate increase in 2011.

Christians next introduced General Manager, Robert "Mac" McLennan, President and CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative. McLennan updated members on power supply issues, wind generation, upgrades at the Young generating unit that have been required by the EPA and the \$425 million that has been invested in the power plant to meet these environmental mandates. McLennan also spoke about the impact the nation's economy has had on the demand for energy and the cause and effect that low market prices have had on Minnkota Power's surplus energy sales and the revenue Minnkota Power received for these sales. McLennan said that the EPA's decision to not FIP the state of North Dakota regarding the Regional Haze issue is a win win situation for both Minnkota and the environment. Mac said that in 2014 there will be the challenge to Minnkota of adding to the cost of its operations the new 300 mile transmission line

that Minnkota is building from Center to Grand Forks. McLennan said that if there are no new regulations placed on Minnkota, rates should level off much like they did after Minnkota added base load generation in the early 80's. McLennan stated that the investments made will carry Minnkota and its member systems through the next two decades with power.

President Christians asked for a motion to accept the preceding reports and it was duly moved, seconded and carried to do so.

Election of directors then took place. Secretary Hanson verified the nominees elected at the district meetings and said there had been no nominations by petition. Christians then declared the following people duly elected as directors for three-year terms: District 7, Kelly Lundeen; District 8, Robert Finstad; and District 2, Stacy Blawat.

Christians asked for any new business or questions from the audience and there was none. It was duly moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the business session of the annual meeting.

Safety awards were presented to three RLEC employees in recognition for their safe work records. Employees recognized for surpassing five-year increments of accident free work were: Steve Conely, 10 years; Mike Wavra 30 years; Shirley Bregier, 40 years and Beverly Schmitz, 45 years.

Bonnie Christians, ex officio director of the Red Lake Electric Trust board, presented an \$850 grant check to Anita Cardinal of the Inter County Nursing Service of Pennington & Red Lake County. Cardinal thanked the members for their participation in the Operation Round Up program and said the grant would be used to help needy people with their personal/home health care.

Kevin Reich awarded door prizes and a special attendance prize to long-term member and frequent meeting attendee Ray Molskness of Thief River Falls. Lunch was served by St. John Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls.

Bonnie Christians,
President

Mark Hanson,
Secretary-treasurer

Tips on scald prevention and water heating safety

Burns are among the most painful injuries and are responsible for sending thousands of people to hospitals each year. In observance of National Burn Awareness Week (Feb. 3-9), Safe Electricity encourages you to learn about scald prevention and water heating safety, as well as other electrical safety tips.

Hot liquids and steam are responsible for scalding burns. Cooking, hot beverages, tap water, and bath water can all cause scalds. In fact, half of all burn injuries at emergency rooms are scalds, and most of those victims are young children. Scalds are painful and can cause lifelong scars and even death.

"In a matter of seconds you can become a victim of a life-changing scald," says Molly Hall, director of the Energy

Education Council's Safe Electricity program. "A simple water heater adjustment can not only help prevent these tragedies, but it can also help you save money through energy efficiency."

To prevent scalds, it is a good idea to start at the source of the hot water. Water heaters keep a supply of stand-by water so that hot water is available instantly. Much of the cost of water heating comes from keeping water warm and ready for when you turn on the faucet. On a normal water heater, you can set the temperature from 120 to 180 degrees Fahrenheit. At 155 F, scalding can occur in just one second. Dial your hot water heater down to 120 F to reduce scald risk and to save money on standby heating costs.

Even with cooler water, it is

still important to practice caution around hot liquids and steam, especially around children. "Make sure children know not to play in the kitchen when you are cooking," says Hall. "Use sealed travel mugs, and turn pots so curious hands cannot grab the handle."

If someone you know experiences a scald, immediately remove the scalding source and remove affected clothing. Briefly rinse the scald in cold water-not in lotion or ointment. Apply a dry covering to the burn that will not leave thread or other residue in the burn. Seek medical assistance for severe burns.

Burn Awareness Week is also a good time to learn how you can help prevent other types of household burns, including electrical burns. Household wiring

problems and damaged electronics increase the risk of shocks, burns, and fires. Discolored outlet covers, frequently tripped circuit breakers, flickering lights, and a persistent burning smell all indicate major electrical dangers. Hire a qualified electrician to inspect and repair your home. Be careful with space heaters and electric blankets, especially with children in the home. Never use damaged electronics or cords that are frayed or cracked. Do not repair electrical equipment that is plugged in. Even if an appliance is unplugged, if it has capacitors it has shock potential. Do not work on appliances if you do not have a firm understanding of electricity.

For more information on preventing electrical shocks and burns, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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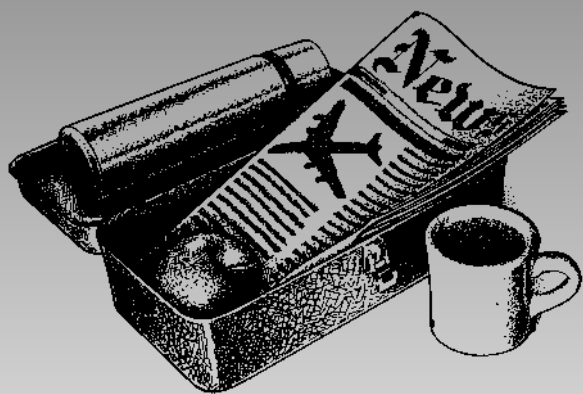
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Wanted

Red Lake County, MN CP 200-413 Aggregate Crushing and Stockpile Red Lake and Polk Counties Closing date March 26, 2013

BIDS CLOSE 11:00 AM, Tuesday March 26, 2013
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS:

Sealed bids will be received until 11:00 AM Tuesday, March 26, 2013 by the Red Lake County Auditor at the Red Lake Falls Courthouse on behalf of the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners for the following:

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DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Crush, screen, stockpile aggregate, Class 1 (Modified) 30,000 Cubic Yards for Red Lake County, and 50,000 CY Class 5 for Polk County, total 80,000 CY, at the Hoefer Pit, Lake Pleasant Township, in Red Lake County.

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All bids must be accompanied by a certified check or Bidder's Bond made payable to the Red Lake County Treasurer for not less than five percent (5%) of the proposal amount. ALL BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE RED LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR AT THE COURTHOUSE, P.O. Box 367 Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 by 11:00 AM on March 26, 2013.

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Robert Schmitz
County Auditor

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Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Want Ad Order Form

Use this handy form to submit your want ads.

PLEASE PRINT.

Mail or bring your ads to the RLEC office by the tenth of the month. Commercial ads are 10¢ per word with a minimum charge of \$4 per insertion.

Member want ads are FREE. One want ad per member per month.

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Do you have a story to share?

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 75th year of service to its membership is an important event. It is a great tribute to those who have contributed to the conception, development, and continued operation of the Cooperative. If you have a story as to how the Cooperative has impacted your life we would appreciate it if you would share that story with

our entire membership.

We know that some of our members have special memories of Cooperative related events. If you have a story about life before electricity, when the lights came on at your farm or in your home, or some other Cooperative related event we would like to hear from you.

Throughout the next few months Red Lake Electric will

print these stories in the "Volts and Jolts" in order to share them with our members. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to be a part of a feature story for the newsletter, please contact the Cooperative at; 253-2168, 800-245-6068, redlake@minnkota.com, or P.O. Box 430 Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

ESFI urges the public to commit to electrical safety in 2013

The beginning of a new year often prompts positive lifestyle changes, and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is encouraging people to keep electrical safety in mind while they strive for improvement in 2013.

In the United States, home electrical problems account for more than 51,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 490 deaths, 1,400 injuries, and \$1.3 billion in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The colder weather the New Year brings also leads to the increased use of electrical products, making people more susceptible to electrical fires, electrocutions and injuries. Luckily, there are simple precautions that can be taken to help prevent electrical fires and keep families safe throughout 2013 and beyond.

"People make New Year's resolutions with the hopes of improving their quality of life, and there is no better way to do that (7022001.01 Kurt and LeAnn Ellefson) than by making sure their homes are free of electrical hazards that can be dangerous, even fatal," said ESFI President Brett Brenner. "The first step for an electrically safe 2013 begins with the safe removal of holiday decorations and continues with the proper usage of home heating and other electrical equipment."

Establish an electrically safe start to 2013 with these tips from ESFI:

Take down and put away all

electrical decorations and lights at the beginning of January. Check for frayed wires, cracked sockets, or burned out bulbs. Discard broken or faulty lights.

Make sure that electrical cords are in good condition.

Separate and label indoor and outdoor decorations. Store them in a dry location that is safely out of reach of children and pets.

Send warranty and product registration forms for new decorations to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls.

Remove and properly dispose of Christmas trees. The best way to dispose of a tree is to bring it to a recycling center or contact a community pickup service.

Keep your home safe throughout the year by learning the basics of how home heating and electrical systems work, and making sure they are properly maintained with these tips from ESFI:

Always have a licensed professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer instructions.

Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom.

Have your furnace cleaned and inspected annually by a licensed, qualified professional. Be sure circuit breakers and fuses are correctly labeled with

their amperage and the rooms, circuits, or outlets they serve.

Consider having a licensed electrician replace your standard circuit breakers with combination-type arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced electrical fire protection.

Make sure ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, workshop, basement, garage, outdoors, and any other areas where water and electricity are likely to come in contact.

Examine electrical outlets and replace missing or broken wall plates to ensure that wiring components are not exposed.

Childproof your home by installing tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs), which provide a simple, permanent solution to help prevent childhood shock and burn injuries from tampering with a wall outlet.

Visit www.electrical-safety.org and www.holidaysafety.org for more tips and tools to help you keep your electrical safety resolution.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities in the home and the workplace. For more information, visit www.electrical-safety.org.

AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th

falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

AUTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify RLEC in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow RLEC to act on it.

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # _____

NAME (PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE # _____

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT # _____

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # _____

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE _____

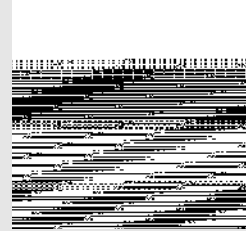
Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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Toll-free 1-800-245-6068
Fax 218-253-2630
After-hour outage 218-253-2200
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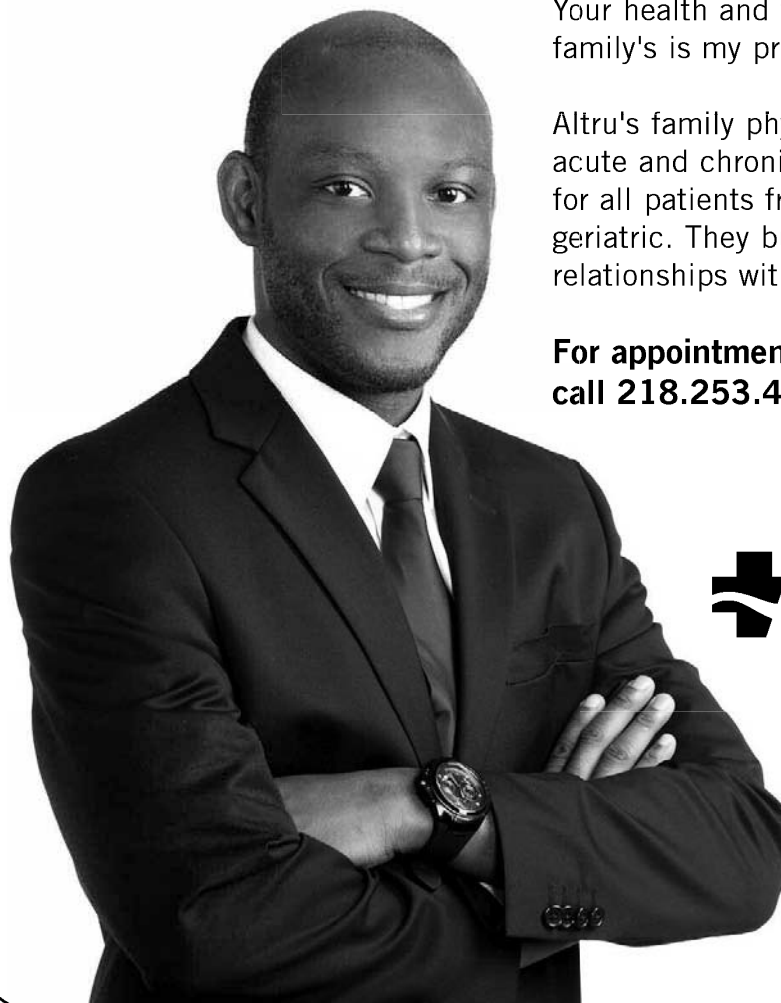
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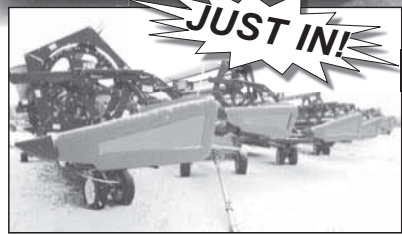
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