



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. 45 – NO. 06

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

APRIL 2010

Red Lake Electric Cooperative holds 72nd annual meeting

Approximately 300 members and friends of Red Lake Electric Cooperative attended the Cooperative's 72nd annual meeting. The meeting was held March 31 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting opened with the National Anthem sung by Becca Kruta of Thief River Falls. Kruta is a senior at Lincoln High School and the daughter of RLEC members Steven and Jill Kruta.

In his president's report, Kelly Lundeen said the past year was very good in many respects. RLEC was spared any major storm-related outages and the main cause for service interruptions was due to underground cable failure.

He stated outage time per customer averaged 50 minutes in 2009; the second lowest on record and about half of what the Cooperative averaged in service interruptions over the past five years.

Lundeen reported over \$493,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements and member equity was a strong 51 percent of assets. He also thanked the Cooperatives members who participated in the Operation Round Up program.

Roger Johanneck, general manager, gave his report and discussed three different topics: Legislation, rate outlook and service reliability.



The 72nd annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative was held March 31 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Pictured are some of the meeting attendees as they visit prior to the call of the meeting.

He stated there are many things people don't have any or much control over but discussed ways customers can have a say in each of these areas.

Johanneck discussed the impact legislation is having on the way Cooperatives operate today; specifically Environmental Protection Agency mandates that are requiring massive environmental upgrades on Minnkota Power's Young generating units; how renewable energy mandates have impacted the Cooperative and the new Conservation Improvement Program.

He also talked about the Cooperative's concern of possible climate legislation that is being considered and stated if members have an opinion on (6907001.03 Dean L. Kalbakdalen) climate legislation to contact federal representatives and let them know what they think.

Johanneck also reviewed some of the service interruptions over the past year and explained ways members have a say in the cause of some of these interruptions.

Accountant Shirley Bregier gave the financial report for 2009. Operating revenue was up from 2008. Kilowatt hour sales were also up from the previous year to an all time high of 134 million kilowatt-hours.

The cost of power RLEC purchased from Minnkota Power Cooperative was \$6.8 million and is about 70 percent of

RLEC's expenses. The energy charge makes up 51 percent of the cost of power for \$3.5 million. The peak demand charge is 30 percent of the total cost of power while the transmission and substation charge make up the balance.

RLEC's operating expenses were down from 2008 to \$1.8 million. This equals about 20 percent of the Cooperative's expenses with depreciation and interest being slightly over \$1 million.

RLEC built 59 new electric services in 2009 and has invested \$25.8 million in electric plants which is about \$750 thousand higher than 2008.

Minnkota Power CEO Dave Loer talked about power supply issues, wind generation, upgrades at the Young generating unit that have been required by the EPA and the \$400 million that has been invested in the power plant to meet these environmental mandates.

He also spoke about the impact the nation's economy has had on the demand for energy and the cause and effect the low market prices have had on Minnkota Power's surplus energy sales and the revenue Minnkota Power received for these sales.

RLEC annual meeting,

*Continued on page 2
More photos on pages 5 and 6*

Operation Round Up grants total \$13,150



The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 21 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$13,150.

Since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up grants totaling \$345 thousand have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Today, 90 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

Four area emergency services providers received grants. The Goodridge Fire and Rescue received \$1,000 toward the purchase of a defibrillator for one of their rescue units. The Oklee Fire Department received \$1,000 that will be used to equip an additional rescue unit they recently received, with a contractors tool box, jaws of life and other rescue items. The Viking Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was award \$1,000 to help fund a pager repeater tower and base radio unit at their fire hall. Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse received \$850 to help fund state mandatory continuing education and training for their Posse.

Area youth will benefit from Operation Round Up grants made to the following organizations: Little Brother/Little Sister program of Marshall County received \$300 for their youth program activities which involves pairing positive adult role models with children in need of their support. The Viking Volcanoes 4-H club will use the \$200 they received towards a community pride service project in Viking.

The Violence Intervention Project in Thief River Falls received \$800 for their Umbrella Tree program that provides supervised child visitations. Some of the playground equipment at the visitation center has deteriorated and needs replacement; these funds will help them do that.

The Falls Day Activity Center (DAC) received \$750 to be used for updating computer equipment that is used for client training and activities. Early Childhood Family



April Ballard, right, Thief River Falls, accepts an Operation Round Up grant check in the amount of \$1,000. She accepted the check on behalf of the Early Childhood Family Advocate program of Thief River Falls. The check was presented to Ballard by Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust.

Advocate Program of Thief River Falls was awarded \$1,000 to help with their mission of working with families who have children, birth to age five who are at-risk for abuse or neglect.

The Strandquist area food shelf received \$400 to help stock their shelves and provide help (food) to low income, disabled or elderly in need.

Inter-County nursing service of Thief River Falls received \$850 to provide maintenance home health care for the elderly whose needs do not qualify them for Medicare or other program assistance. The Middle River-Thief Lake living at home block nurse program was awarded \$700 to help them help the elderly live at home by providing medical transportation and other related home health care.

The Tri-Community living at home block nurse program of Newfolden also received \$700 to help provide social, recreational, educational and health promoting events for local senior citizens. The Middle River Seniors received \$300 that will be used to help fund transportation provided to seniors who need rides to meet medical appointments. The Heritage Center in Thief River Falls was given \$300 towards the cost of replacing the furnace in their center.

The Red Lake County American Cancer Society and Relay For Life received \$500 to raise money to further cancer research, education materials and local patient services. Pennington/Red Lake Victim Services was awarded \$1,000 to fund emergency expenses for victims of crime. Moving expenses, providing

a safer environment and childcare are examples of their fund uses.

A \$250 grant was given to the Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program that provides training to develop and expand leadership skills (4317005.06 Sharon Piche) focusing on agriculture and natural resources for area ag couples. The Goodridge Lion Tamer Lions was awarded \$250 to help make upgrades to the Lions hall used in hosting community events. The Pennington County Humane Society received \$500 to update their existing ventilation system to remove harmful odors that will improve the environment for the pets, staff and visitors.

Pembina Trail Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) working cooperatively with J.A. Hughes Elementary School in Red Lake Falls was awarded \$500 to be used for a community garden. The demonstration garden will consist of apple trees, construction of raised/handicap accessible beds where extra food grown will be used to stock the local food shelf.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Kim Swanson, president, Thief River Falls; Randy Knutson, vice-president, Newfolden; and Bonnie Cote, secretary/treasurer, Trail. Ex-officio directors are Henry Wieland and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

Three directors elected at annual meeting for three-year terms



Colette Kujava

Colette Kujava, Newfolden, is the newly-elected director for District 3. She replaces Joyce Johnson, Viking, who did not seek re-election having served six years.

District 3 includes the townships of West Valley, New Maine, Marsh Grove, Newfolden, New Solum and Viking, all in Marshall County.

Kujava is originally from Harvey, N.D. where she was raised. For the past 10 years she has been employed at Wikstrom Telephone Co. in Karlstad. She works in sales which includes internet and website services in addition to telephone directory sales.

Kujava and her husband Gordon reside on their farm west of Newfolden in Marsh Grove Township. They are parents of three children. Daughter Teri works at Digi Key, daughter Kelli attends Moorhead Technical College and son Alex is in the seventh grade at Marshall County Central High School. The Kujavas are engaged in grain farming and raise cattle.

Kujavas are members of Assumption Catholic Church of Florian where Kujava is active in church activities. She serves on the Northwest Private Industry Council (NWPIC) as Marshall County representative and also serves with the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce.

"I look forward to serving as a director of Red Lake Electric," stated Kujava. "I wanted to do something for my district and community. Representing the area on a member-owned cooperative board will allow me to do that."



Randy Versdahl

Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls, is the newly-elected director for District 6. He defeated challenger Daniel Schmitz by a vote of 46 to 23. He replaces retiring director Henry Wieland who served 28 years. District 6 includes the townships of Wylie, Louisville, Browns Creek, Red Lake Falls, River, Gervais, Terrebonne and Emardville, all in Red Lake County.

Versdahl is originally from McIntosh. He is a 32-year veteran employee of Garden Valley Telephone Co. of Erskine. For the past 13 years he has served as facilities manager and safety director.

Versdahl and his wife Kris have been residents of Gervais Township for 30 years. Kris operates a graphic design studio from their home. Versdahls are the parents of two daughters, Kari who is married to Danny Gagner and Erica who is married to Alan Sundby, both residing in the Grand Forks area.

Versdahls are members of Bethany Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls. Randy is a member of the Pathfinders Snowmobile Club. He has served as president of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) plant managers group. He has been an active safety committee member of MTA for 10 years.

"In the future, I believe there is going to be some difficult decisions to be made concerning electric energy costs," said Versdahl. "My background in telecommunications will help to address the energy issues that will be in front of us."

"I have been a member of Red Lake Electric for 30 years and look forward to representing the Cooperative members of the Red Lake Falls and Plummer areas," stated Versdahl.



Peter Mosbeck

Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, was re-elected as director representative of District 9. He was first elected three years ago.

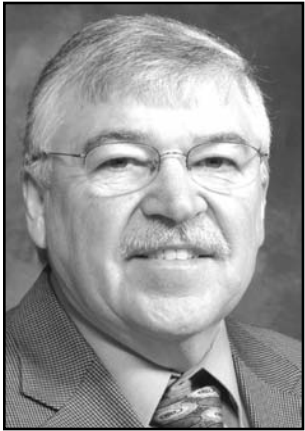
District 9 includes the townships of River Falls, Black River, Polk Centre, Sanders, Bray, Numedal and Norden, all in Pennington County.

Mosbeck has been a rural Red Lake Falls resident all his life. He and his wife Janette reside on their farm in Polk Centre Township. They are the parents of two children, Dustin and Brittney. Dustin lives in Polk Centre Township also. Brittney is married to Tom Johnson and resides in East Grand Forks.

Peter is involved in a family grain (5105001.02 Leslie Wilde) farm operation and works as an auctioneer. He enjoys many outdoor activities. Janette is employed by the Red Lake Falls Veterinary Clinic.

The Mosbecks are members of Black River Lutheran Church where Peter has served on the church board. He also serves as a supervisor on the township board.

"The electric business is being faced with some real challenges and changes especially with government mandates and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations," stated Mosbeck. "It will be challenging to keep reasonable retail rates but I will do my best to represent the members of District 9. Thank you members for your support."



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Annual meeting

I want to pass on a few thank you's this month, to those who had a hand in making our Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting a good experience for all who attended.

That'd include a thank you to the 300 members and others who took time out of their schedules to attend the meeting, hear what happened at and to the Cooperative in 2009 and participate in the director election process. I can assure you that preparing reports and making presentations that one can share at a meeting with good attendance makes all the work worthwhile. I hope that everyone was able to take home, if not a prize, a good meal and something interesting and helpful from the meeting.

This is the fifth year we have held the annual meeting in the Imperial Room at the Ralph Englestad Arena in Thief River Falls and I am grateful to have access to such a nice facility to hold our meetings. I think all who have attended one of our annual meetings at the Ralph agree that it is a great place to hold our annual meeting.

The only drawback, if we have to come up with one, is that there is typically a meeting held in the same room the day prior to our meeting so we don't get access to set up for our meeting until late in the afternoon the day prior. That minor obstacle is overcome by the helpful staff at the Ralph.

My thanks to Dale Wennberg, Missy Sletton and the rest of the REA crew for accommodating us each year and doing what it takes to get the room cleared quickly from the meeting just held so we can set up for our meeting.

Each year, the Cooperative invites a church from within our service territory to prepare and serve a meal at the end of our meeting. We think this arrangement is a win-win deal for these groups and the Cooperative. It gives them the opportunity at a fund-raiser for their organization and it helps us out too.

This year, the Ebenezer church

of rural Oklee did the honors of noon lunch; I want to thank them for the good meal and their work in doing that for us this year.

I want to thank Minnkota General Manager Dave Loer for meeting with our membership at, not only this year's annual meeting, but for the previous 12 Red Lake Electric annual meetings. Since 1998, when Dave made his first Minnkota presentation at our annual meeting, he has welcomed our invitation to return each year and speak to us; I appreciate that.

Even last year's snow storm that kept (4403014.08 Scott and Shari Daniels) our attendance down, Dave travelled from Grand Forks through the storm so he could speak at our annual meeting. I told Dave even the donuts that were to arrive from Grand Forks didn't because of the storm, but you did, and that had I known this was going to happen I would have asked you to bring the donuts too.

Dave recently announced at Minnkota's annual meeting held last week, that he will be retiring from Minnkota the end of this year. We all appreciate the excellent job Dave did updating us on the challenges of the power supply business and what is happening at Minnkota; we'll miss not being able to call on him to do that for us next year.

This year, the Cooperative had two directors that chose not to seek re-election, and I want to thank them for their service to the Cooperative. Henry Wieland of rural Red Lake Falls has served the members of District 6 since 1982 and Joyce Johnson of rural Viking has been a director of District 3 for the past six years. Their tenures as director ended at this year's annual meeting with the election of their replacements, Randy Versdahl and Colette Kujava.

I enjoyed working with Henry and Joyce and will miss their presence in the board room each month; not just because they were good directors, but good people too. I appreciate the importance they placed on showing up for the

monthly board meetings and the values they brought to the table when discussing their viewpoints, the thoughtful choices they made and the leadership with which they represented their respective districts.

Vernon Rogalla has provided entertainment for our annual meeting attendees for the past 11 years, and I appreciate the festive mood his music adds to our meeting; thanks Vernon, for accepting our invitation to play music again for us this year.

And, to those young adults, usually a high school choir member, for starting our meeting out with the singing of the National Anthem; this year our thanks goes to Becca Kruta who is a senior at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls, the daughter of RLEC members Steven and Jill Kruta.

The Operation Round Up grant presentation was handled at this year's annual meeting by outgoing Red Lake Electric Trust board president Kim Swanson and April Ballard of the Early Childhood Family Advocate Program in Thief River Falls. April was on hand to accept the grant, share her appreciation for the donation and tell us about how these funds will help her organization serve our community.

RLE Trust by-laws state that trust board members can serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms and Kim has done that. On behalf of all the members who donate to Operation Round Up, the organizations who benefit from our members generosity and the other RLE trust board members with whom Kim served; thanks Kim for your fair and thoughtful consideration given in determining the \$127 thousand in grants awarded during your six-year tenure.

Lastly, I want to thank our employees for their hand in the annual meeting preparations and for helping those in attendance be comfortable, welcome and appreciated.

It means a lot to me and others who benefit from the hands that go into making a project, like our annual meeting successful. I assure you that these efforts aren't taken for granted and why I wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks.

Each year at the conclusion of our annual meeting, I ask the directors and staff if they have any suggestions to make our annual meeting better; I extend that invitation to you as well. If you have something that you would like to pass on to us to improve on the way we carry out our annual meeting duties, please let us know.

RLEC annual meeting, Continued from front page

Loer explained how Minnkota Power and Minnesota Power have reached an agreement that would transfer Minnesota Power's share of Young II generation to Minnkota Power in exchange for the DC transmission line that extends from the Young generating plant in Center, N.D. to Duluth. That deal was completed at the end of 2009. He mentioned this was a good deal for both parties and was considered a win-win situation for the two generation and transmission utilities.

It is unlikely given the nature of uncertainty around coal-fired power plants that getting a permit for a new Young III coal plant would have ever happened. Loer mentioned Minnkota Power will need to build a new transmission line to wheel the power from the Young generating unit, located in central North Dakota, to the valley, at a cost of around \$300 million. Despite the large cost of building the new line, he concluded this is still significantly less expensive than building a new power plant.

Three directors were elected at the annual meeting. Colette Kujava, Newfolden, is the newly-elected director for District 3. Newly elect-

ed director for District 6 is Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls. He defeated Daniel Schmitz, Red Lake Falls, by a vote of 46 to 23. Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, incumbent director of District 9 was re-elected.

Safety awards were presented to four RLEC employees in recognition of their safe work records. Employees recognized for surpassing five-year increments of accident-free work were Casey Thronson, lineman, 5 years; Troy Schmitz, lineman, 5 years; Dick Gervais, crew foreman, 10 years; and Kevin Reich, member services manager, 35 years.

Appreciation plaques were presented to outgoing directors Henry Wieland, Red Lake Falls, and Joyce Johnson, Viking. Wieland had represented the members of District 6 for 28 years. Johnson had served as District 3 director since 2004.

Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc., presented a \$1,000 Operation Round Up grant to April Ballard, Thief River Falls. Ballard accepted the check on behalf of the Early Childhood Family Advocate Program of Thief River Falls.

Since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up grants totaling \$345,000 have been awarded to area non-profit and charitable organizations throughout the service area of RLEC.

Swanson was presented a plaque by Johanneck in recognition for serving six years on the RLE Trust board.

Musical entertainment was provided by Vern Rogalla of Goodridge. Door prizes were awarded with Dorothy Miller of Goodridge being recognized as a long-term Cooperative member. Lunch was served by members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, rural Oklee.

RLEC presently serves 5,196 accounts for 4,287 members in Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Beltrami counties. The current board of directors includes Lundeen, president; Trail; Bonnie Christians, vice-president; Crookston; Mark Hanson, secretary-treasurer; Thief River Falls; Robert Olson, Middle River; Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls; Kujava, Newfolden; and Versdahl, Red Lake Falls.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for the wonderful grill and waffle iron. It will be put to good use.

Jeanette Stoltman
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the slow cooker that I won at the annual Red Lake Electric Cooperative meeting.

Harold Halvorson
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the ice cream treats you gave us from your annual meeting.

St. Joseph's Students & Staff
Red Lake Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the \$500 scholarship that you provided for NCTC students. I am currently in the electrician program. This money will help me to pay my tuition and I really do appreciate it. Thank you for making scholarships like this available to college students like me who have no outside help in paying for college or my daily living expenses.

Colby Waterworth
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Many thanks for your donation of milk and donuts to Sunview Dining Center. Our clients appreciated the treat and your gift also helped with our food budget!

Margaret Schindler
Dining Manager
Red Lake Falls

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust and Cooperative Members:

Once again you have proven that the spirit of generosity is flowing through northern Minnesota with your support to the Goodridge Fire and Rescue Squad. Thank you for allowing us to be a recipient of another grant. Your support means a lot to us and is deeply appreciated.

Renae Marquis
Goodridge Area
Fire & Rescue

Dear RLEC:

I would like to thank you for your generous scholarship! This will definitely help me succeed here at NCTC and with my future educational goals. Once again your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Steve May
Thief River Falls

Dear RLE Trust:

Thank you so much for the \$800 grant for our children's playground area. This will be so good for the kids who we help in one way or another here at Violence Intervention Project. We hope Red Lake Electric Trust has a very prosperous year.

Sandi Bentley
Executive Director
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

I wanted to personally thank you for your generous scholarship contribution. These funds will help pay for the expensive tools that are needed in my profession and set me up for success in the future. I have great appreciation for this program and hope that I can repay your donation to the community and the college.

Houston Kirkeide
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the electric grill I won at the annual meeting. I didn't have one so I appreciate it very much.

Adelaide Naas
Red Lake Falls

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

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

VOLTS & JOLTS

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

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NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (99-99-99-999-99 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.



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 \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 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 \$17 to \$23 month
First 500 KWH9¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.)6¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)75¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$17/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$9/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$4/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.0¢/kWh long-term control, 5.8¢/kWh short-term control.



Early arrivals at RLEC annual meeting were Dorothy and Charles Doppler of Thief River Falls.



Registering at RLEC annual meeting were Laurence Gutterud, left, and Gerald Sanders both of Thief River Falls.



Betty and James Hjelle of Newfolden visit with RLEC employees Roger Valley and Melanie LaCrosse as they enter the Ralph Engelstad Arena to attend RLEC annual meeting.



Annual meetings allow the opportunity for friends and neighbors to visit and catch up on the latest.



Pete Stich, right, Red Lake Falls, gets a chuckle from a story told by Harley Knutson, Thief River Falls, at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting. In the background is John Stich of Red Lake Falls.



The youngest attendee, at 11 days old, was Addison Jo Brateng of Red Lake Falls. She is the infant daughter of Kelli and Andy Brateng. She did not have much interest in the meeting business. Kelli is an accounting assistant at RLEC.



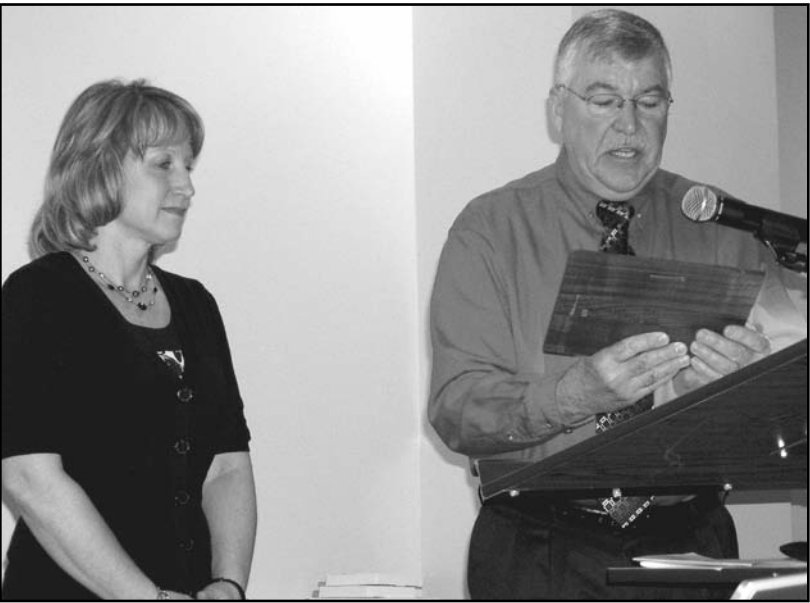
Terry Schmitz, left, Red Lake Falls, visits with Steve Conely, Red Lake Electric Engineering Technician at the Cooperative's annual meeting.



Becca Kruta, Thief River Falls, opened Red Lake Electric's annual meeting by singing the National Anthem. She is a senior at Lincoln High School and the daughter of RLE members Jill and Steve Kruta.



Dorothy Miller, Goodridge, was presented a Bethany grill as she was recognized as a long-term member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative. She received the grill from Bob Guillemette, manager of electric operations.



Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, was recognized by Roger Johanneck, RLE manager, for six years of service on the Red Lake Electric Trust Board. Six years is the maximum a cooperative member can serve on the trust board.



Vern Rogalla, Goodridge, provided musical entertainment prior to and following RLEC annual meeting. The meeting was held March 31 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.



Jeanette Stoltman, Thief River Falls, displays the grill/waffle iron she won at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting March 25.



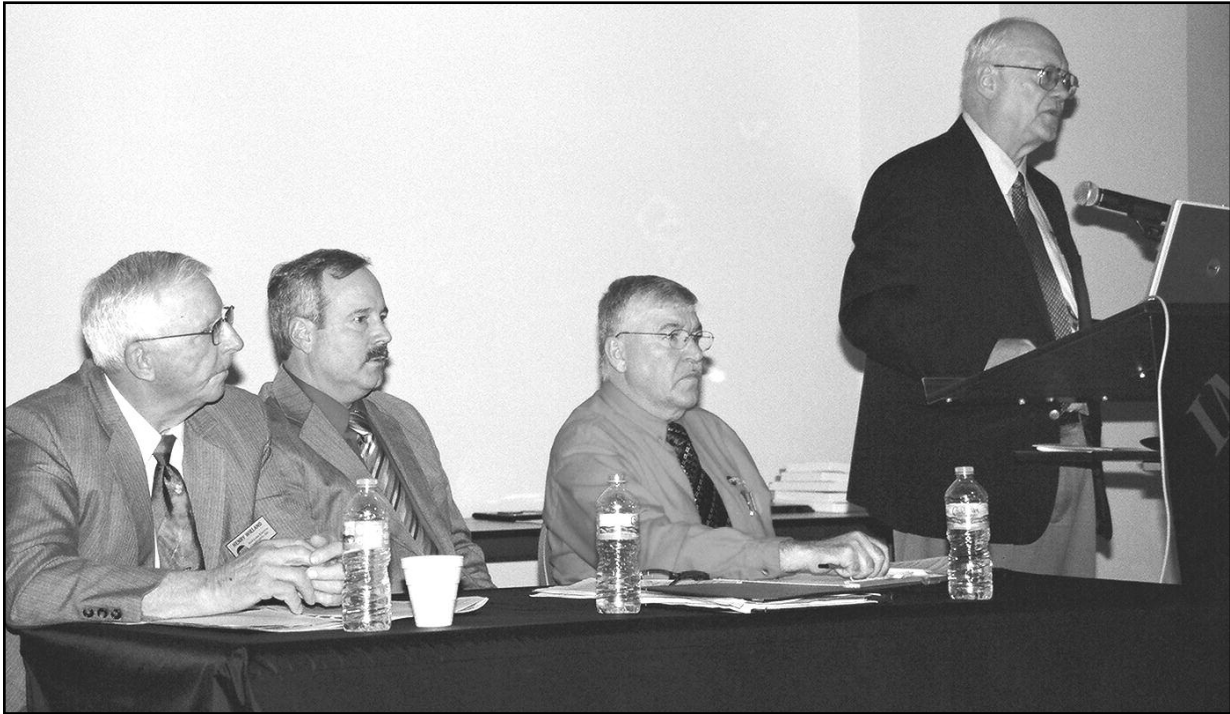
Gerda Koskela, Plummer, was one of several prize winners at RLEC annual meeting.



Retiring RLEC directors Joyce Johnson, Viking, and Henry Wieland, Red Lake Falls, were recognized for their service on the Cooperative board. Johnson served as District 3 director since 2004. Wieland served as director of District 6 for 28 years, serving many of those years as secretary/treasurer of the board.



Annual meeting attendees enjoyed a lunch served by members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, rural Oklee.



Dave Loer, CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, addressed Red Lake Electric Cooperative annual meeting attendees. He shared some of the challenges faced by the electric industry. Loer will be retiring from Minnkota Power this year. Seated at the table are, from left, Henry Wieland, secretary/treasurer, Red Lake Falls; Kelly Lundeen, president, Trail; Roger Johanneck, general manager, Red Lake Falls.

Developing your retirement income plan

By Lisa Hughes-Daniel

For decades you've collected paychecks from an employer. But after you retire, you'll be paying yourself—that is, withdrawing money from the nest egg you've saved.

Unfortunately many retirees, flush from having sudden access to a large sum of money, overpay themselves early in retirement. Some folks deplete their savings at a stage in life when it's difficult to recover financially. You can avoid this situation by creating a retirement income plan.

Part budget, part roadmap, a retirement income plan is a strategy for drawing on your assets and benefits at a sustainable rate and in a way that will be most advantageous to you. Ideally, you should start designing your plan about five years before you retire, but it's never too late.

Ready to plunge in? You can take the steps below yourself, although enlisting the help of a trusted financial advisor is a good idea. An advisor can help you navigate decisions you'll encounter as you design your plan, since many

choices will impact your tax liability, cash flow, and bottom line down the road. Be sure he or she is professionally certified and won't earn commissions on your investments.

Take Stock

As with any budget, first get the facts on paper, starting with the money you'll need each month in retirement. Make a list of projected costs: mortgage, insurance, utilities, property taxes, food, and other monthly expenses. Don't forget line items that will change after you leave your job, like medical insurance, travel, and new hobbies.

Also consider large future expenses you're likely to face—home repairs, replacing cars, and especially medical costs. Even with Medicare, most experts recommend that retirees budget heavily for their own health care.

Next, what sources of income do you expect to have? List these too: Social Security benefits, pension benefits, retirement savings accounts, and other investment or cash accounts. Use the best estimates and projections you have.

Gauge Withdrawal Needs

Part of your monthly expenses

may be covered by sources of fixed income, such as Social Security and possibly annuity payments from a retirement plan. What expenses remain that you'd need to finance with personal savings?

Compare that amount with your total nest egg. To ensure your money will last the rest of your life, experts recommend that you withdraw no more than 3 to 5 percent of retirement savings in the first year of retirement, then adjust that amount each following year for inflation. Would your budget require more than that? If so, you risk overpaying yourself. You may need to save more before retiring, reduce your expenses, consider part-time work, or adjust your investment strategy.

Do an Investment Check-up

Your investment strategy needs a thorough review as you prepare to move from the "earning" years to the "spending" years to make sure your assets are allocated appropriately. While you'll probably still need to invest in some stocks for growth, it's also time to starting moving money you'll need in the next several years to more stable investments, like money market accounts. That can protect you against extreme market losses when you can least afford them.

Review Your Plan Periodically

Life will evolve, and your financial needs may too. After you retire, revisit your plan every two to three years or upon a major life event that affects your finances, then make adjustments as needed.

Paying yourself the right amount in retirement isn't a game you want to guess at—the stakes are too high. With a solid plan, however, you can move forward with confidence.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative board members are, front from left, Colette Kujava, Newfolden; Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls; Kelly Lundeen, president, Trail; and Bonnie Christians, vice president, Crookston. Back: Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls; Robert Olson, Middle River; Mark Hanson, secretary/treasurer, Thief River Falls; Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls; and Steve Linder, Oklee.

Generator safety: Our lives are on the line

The safety of you, our members, and our employees is a top priority at Red Lake Electric Cooperative, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We place ground chains on the circuit—on both sides of workers—to make sure the line cannot be energized while work's being done.

But even after these measures, our workers' lives remain in your hands.

RLEC is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own—in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly.

In 2005, a lineman died in Flomaton, Ala., when he contacted a power line that was energized by an improperly installed generator. Forty-one-year-old Ronnie Adams of Winterville, Ga., was working to restore power after Hurricane Dennis. He was married and had two teenage children.

Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—

even if the line seems dead.

And RLEC employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage, or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.

- Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.

- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated

extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.

- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.

- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.

- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.

- Never fuel a generator while it is operating.

- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

Late Memorial Day weekend delays walleye fishing opener

Minnesota's walleye opener will be Saturday, May 15, a week later than usual.

State law sets the walleye opener two Saturdays prior to Memorial Day weekend, which does not occur until the last weekend of May this year.

The later start means that the walleye opener will not coincide with Mother's Day weekend, which is May 8 and 9.

"Moms still can fish free on Mother's Day weekend," said Dirk Peterson, fisheries section chief for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "But they're going to have to focus on panfish."

Stream trout season opens statewide on April 17. The early catch-and-release trout season in southeastern Minnesota opened April 1 and runs through April 16.

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



110 car shuttle facility

**FREE D.P. Storage
on Spring Wheat
until July 1**

- Buying grain from elevators & farm direct
- On farm pickup
- Various grain contracts available
- Fast & efficient truck unload



Have a Safe Spring Seeding Season

Doug Derosier, Manager
33388 190th Ave. SE • Erskine, MN 56535
Phone: 218-687-5400
Fax: 218-687-5401
email: dougegt@gvtel.com
Toll Free: 1-877-287-5235
www.erskinegt.com

PROUD
to be part of the Ag Community of Minnesota

The Strength of Community
UNITY BANK
www.unitybanking.com

Member FDIC

Red Lake Falls 218-253-2143 | Mentor 218-637-2971

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RLEC) will pay cash rebates to commercial and industrial customers for the installation of qualifying lighting equipment to replace inefficient light fixtures in existing buildings. The maximum rebate per member is \$15,000 and cannot exceed 75% of the project cost, including materials & labor. The chart below shows the energy advantage (30% energy savings) of replacing older style (T-12) 4 foot/4 lamp fluorescent tube lighting with the new style (T-8) energy efficient 4 foot/4 lamp fluorescent tube lighting. Contact RLEC today and find out more about our commercial lighting retrofit rebate program.

4 foot Fluorescent Tube Lighting comparison.

6,000

5,000

4,000

3,000

2,000

1,000

0

T-12

T-8

Annual kWh usage (based on 10 fixtures @ 70 hours per week)

2010 FORD FUSION SE

NON MOTOR TREND CAR OF THE YEAR

Save \$2,500

0% 60 Months O.A.C.

MSRP\$24,015

Ford Retail Customer Cash.....-\$1,000

Ford Promotional Retail Bonus Cash-\$1,000

Thief River Ford Discount-\$ 516

Your Price **\$21,499**

C10122

2.5L I4 Engine, 6-Speed Auto Transmission, Sterling Gray Metallic, Charcoal Blackcloth Seating, Fog Lamps, Power Mirrors, 6-Way Power Driver Seat with Lumbar, AM/FM Single CD/MP3, 6 Speaker A/C Climate Control, Power Windows & Locks, Sirius Satellite Radio, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes w/ABS, Tilt/Telescope Wheel, Advancetrac ESC, Side Air Bags/Curtains, 3YR/36,000 Bumper/Bumper, 5YR/60,000 Powertrain, 5YR/60,000 Roadside Assist, Power Moonroof, Sync Voice Activated System, Rear Spoiler.

EXTENDED SALES HOURS

Mon - Thurs8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thief River

(800) 295-3673 (218) 681-2660

802 Highway 1 West Thief River Falls

www.thiefriverfordinc.com

USED INVENTORY

‘98 Plymouth Grand Caravan SE

T10056B Quad Seats, Rear AC/Heat .was \$3,999 **\$2,999**

‘95 Ford F350 Crew Cab 4x4

T10079B 7.3L, Dsl, 5 Speed, XLT**\$3,999**

‘97 Chev Silverado 1500 Ext Cab

T10063A V-8 Auto, 4x2, 106k Miles .was \$5,999 **\$5,499**

‘00 Mercury Villager Van

B0793A 7 Passenger, V6, 93k Miles**\$5,999**

‘01 Toyota Camry LE

B0735A Cloth Seats, 101k Mileswas \$6,999 **\$5,999**

‘01 Suzuki XL-7 4 Door 4x4

S0775A V6 Auto 117k Miles**\$5,999**

‘00 Chev Suburban LT 4x4

T10087B Heated Leather, Loaded**\$7,499**

‘03 Ford Escape 4 Dr. 4x4

T10109A XLT, Moonroof, Leather, 75k Miles**\$9,999**

‘05 Buick LeSabre Custom

S0788A 3.8L V6, Cloth Seats, 71k Miles**\$10,999**

‘03 Jeep Liberty 4 Dr. 4x4

T10094B Heated Leather, Moonroof, 83k Miles**\$10,999**

‘05 Cadillac Deville 4 Dr.

S0785B Leather Seats, 69k Miles**\$11,999**

‘05 Dodge Quad Cab 4x4

T10095A V-8, AM/FM/CD 90kwas \$13,999 **\$12,499**

‘07 Ford F150 Reg Cab 4x2

T10022C XL Trim, V6 5-Speed, 38k Miles**\$13,499**

‘07 Mercury Milan 4 Dr.

B0795 V6, Full Power, 27k Miles**\$15,999**

‘07 Mercury Milan Premier 4 Dr.

S0790 Heated Leather, Moonroof, 40k Miles**\$16,999**

‘06 Mercury Mountaineer Premier AWD

S0781A Heated Leather, Black, 48k**\$18,999**

‘07 Ford Edge AWD

T10120A Cloth Seats, 58k Miles**\$18,999**

‘07 Ford Escape XLT 4x4

B0780 3.0L V-6, Power Moonroof, 49k Miles**\$18,999**

‘04 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4x4

T10107 6.0L Diesel, Auto, 114k Miles**\$19,999**

‘08 Ford Escape XLT 4x4

B0782 3.0L, V-6, Moonroof, 31k Miles**\$20,999**

‘06 GMC Sierra Crew Cab 2500 4x4

T10042B 6.0L, Gas, Cloth Seats, 64k Miles**\$20,999**

‘07 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4

S0767 5.4L, XLT, 34k Miles**\$22,999**

‘07 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4

T10065A V-8, XLT, 47k Miles**\$22,999**

‘07 Ford Edge SE AWD

S0787 Cloth Seats, CD Player, 30k Miles**\$23,499**

‘06 Ford F150 Super Crew 4x4

T10076A V-8 Lariat, Heated Leather**\$23,999**

‘07 Ford Edge SEL Plus AWD

S0789 Heated Leather, DVD, 37k Miles**\$24,999**

‘08 Ford F150 Super Crew Lariat 4x4

T10074A Heated Leather, Loaded! 49k**\$26,999**

‘09 Ford Flex AWD

B0783 Heated Leather Seats, 17k**\$29,999**

‘09 Lincoln Town Car Signature LTD

B0794 Heated Leather, Loaded, 14k Miles**\$29,999**

EXTENDED SALES HOURS

Mon - Thurs8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thief River

(800) 295-3673 (218) 681-2660

802 Highway 1 West Thief River Falls

www.thiefriverfordinc.com

Milton R. Young Station

Milton R. Young Power Plant tour scheduled for June 15 and 16

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative plan to cosponsor a tour of the Milton R. Young Power Plant June 15 and 16.

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks. Time will be spent at the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center near Pillsbury, N.D. A relaxing evening will be spent at the Seven Seas Motel in Mandan, which will include a banquet sponsored by Minnkota Power.

The second day of the tour includes visiting the Milton R. Young generation station near Center, N.D. It will also include a drive through the open pit lignite mines (weather permitting) to see the mining operation first hand. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate in the tour is \$80 per person, (7410001.02 Ron Prudhomme) double occupancy, \$100 single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and/or spouses.

The tour group will depart from Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Red Lake Falls at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 15. Approximate time of return is 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 16.

Registrations and payment are due by June 1.

If you have not partaken of this tour, sign up today for a learning experience.

Power Plant Tour Registration

June 15 and 16, 2010

Sign up deadline is June 1, 2010

NAME OF PARTICIPANTS

ADDRESS(ES)

TELEPHONE NUMBER

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

ACCOUNT NUMBER

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$80 Per Participant, Double Occupancy • \$100 Per Participant, Single Occupancy

Return to RLEC, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, along with your check. RLEC will contact you later with details. Your check or deposit will be returned if the tour should be cancelled for some reason. If it becomes necessary for you to cancel out on the trip, it is required that you notify RLEC at least 48 hours before departure to be eligible for a refund. Registration for the trip is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limited number of openings. If you have previously partaken of the trip, you will be put on a space availability standby.

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 week-end 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

Phone 218-253-2168

Toll-free 1-800-245-6068

Fax 218-253-2630

After-hour outage 218-253-2200

Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30

E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com

Web site www.redlakeelectric.com

P. O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive SW • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430