



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. 44 – NO. 05

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MARCH 2009

Together we have the power to make a difference

Minnesota electric cooperatives, along with cooperatives across the nation, are launching a grassroots campaign asking our elected officials to find reasonable, affordable solutions that will keep our electricity flowing into the future.

We are calling this campaign "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America". It's about building a dialogue between America's electricity consumers and our elected officials. It's about our nation's pressing capacity crisis, the technological hurdles we face in developing new, less carbon-intensive power generation and the need to keep electricity affordable while achieving climate change goals. Legislators at both the national and state level need to be made aware of these issues and how they will affect all of us.

Now is the time to begin that conversation with your elected officials, to call on them to provide the



leadership needed to face our energy challenge and find solutions. They need to incite bipartisan political action, set achievable goals and (3836003.01 Roger and Melannie Lundstrom) prepare for what all of this will mean to the monthly electric bills of all American consumers. You don't need to be an energy expert to ask questions. Asking questions will help find the answers to solve the problem of balancing climate change (3717001.06 Jason R. and Stacey Sauve) goals with keeping your

lights on and your electric bills affordable. It's the responsibility of all of us to make our voices heard before decisions are made that affect our energy and our future.

Four questions have been developed to get the dialogue with elected officials headed in the right direction:

- Capacity - Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?

- Technology - Our country faces a crisis as electricity use increases faster than available supply. I believe that by unleashing American ingenuity we can solve this problem. What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions free electric plants an affordable reality?

- Affordability - Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much will this increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

- Jobs - How will you keep existing jobs and attract new businesses to Minnesota if our electric rates are higher than neighboring states?

Here's what you need to do to become a part of this grassroots effort: Complete the postcard that was included with your electric statement, return it with your next energy payment and we will sign up for you. Or, if you prefer, you can sign up yourself by going to the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) "Our Energy, Our Future" website at www.ourenergymn.coop and entering your personal information. Either way you choose, you only need to sign up once. After receiving your information, MREA will be forwarding the questions for you. The first three questions will go to our representatives in Washington and all four questions will go to our state officials.



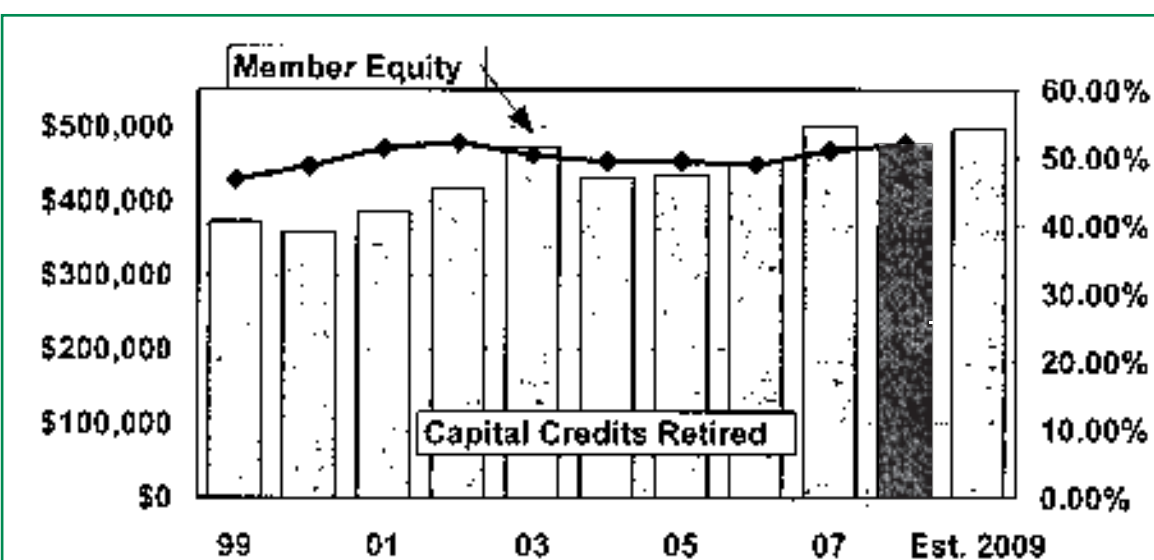
Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America



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 2008 and retirement of customer equity (Capital Credits) information for 2009. 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 customers annually over the same period. Since the Cooperative began business in 1938, the Cooperative has retired \$8.1 million of Capital Credits to its members.



Our Energy, Our Future™

A Dialogue With America

== Welcome ==
to the 71st Annual Meeting of the Membership of

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009
Imperial Room, Ralph Engelstad Arena
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

9:00 a.m.	Registration begins Free coffee and doughnuts
10:00 a.m.	EntertainmentVernon Rogalla
10:30 a.m.	Call to orderKelly Lundeen, President
	National AnthemAshley Carlson
	InvocationPeter Mosbeck
	IntroductionsKelly Lundeen

BUSINESS SESSION

Notice of meeting and affidavit of mailing	Henry Wieland
Establishment of quorum	Henry Wieland
Minutes of 2008 meeting	Henry Wieland
President's report	Kelly Lundeen
General manager's report	Roger Johanneck
Financial report	Shirley Bregier
Minnkota report	Dave Loer, CEO, Minnkota Power
Election of directors	Kelly Lundeen
Question and answer session	
Adjournment of business session	
Award Presentations	
Unstoppable Solar Cycles	
Awarding of prizes	
Lunch and entertainment	

The Ralph Engelstad Arena is handicap-accessible and equipped accordingly. Any annual meeting attendee requiring any other special needs should contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative in advance.

\$411,000 capital credit payment given in March

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved the payment of capital credits totaling over \$411,000. This payment continues a strong tradition of equity revolvment at Red Lake Electric.

The balance of capital credits assigned to members in 1991 will be paid out, as well as 83 percent of the capital credits assigned in 1992. 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.

Investments in efficiency deliver strong returns

By Megan McKoy

In today's troubled economic climate, people are searching for places to sock away money that offer the promise of a healthy return. While no one can predict when, or if, the stock market will fully recover, crunching a few numbers does show one safe investment alternative: energy efficiency.

Even in good financial times the annual Wall Street return on stocks averages 14 percent, followed by 4.2 percent for 30-year bonds and 3.5 percent for money market accounts. In comparison, incorporating 10

home efficiency measures carries a 16 percent rate of return, according to the U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver program.

Looking at it another way, the energy bill for a typical American home averages \$1,283 per year, while a home that has purchased and installed Energy Star products spends just \$774.

That's a savings of more than \$500 annually, a nice profit for smart and efficiency-savvy investors to take to the bank.

Continued on Page 3



By replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps consumers receive a 41 percent rate of return, with the initial investment of approximately \$200 paid off in two and a half years.



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck

'Our Energy, Our Future' campaign

These days, we seem to be facing many important issues as a state, nation and world. Maybe it's always been like that and I'm just more aware of that stuff now because of my job or my age, or both. Rural Electric leaders are saying the issues we face in our electric industry today are more critical than we've ever seen before. It is hard for those of us in the energy business to argue with that view. However, I suspect if we could turn back the clock, that statement was or could have been used then, to describe the urgency of the times.

The "Our Energy, Our Future" annual meeting theme chosen by Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) this year, is one being used by many electric cooperatives across the country. The theme's purpose is to draw attention to the biggest issue facing our industry, climate change legislation, and to unite Co-op members across the (1205005.03 Brian W. Walton) country in an effort to contact lawmakers about keeping any legislation that is being considered, affordable.

Urgency has been applied to the

request for your participation in this country-wide effort by our National Rural Electric Cooperative Organization (NRECA) and the rural electric cooperatives they represent, like us.

NRECA says it is urgent because lawmakers want to move swiftly on some form of climate change legislation/energy policy and because the carbon tax or cap and trade legislation being considered would be very expensive. NRECA insists now is the time to contact our representatives and tell them what they need to keep in mind as they consider creating legislation that will add to the cost of the monthly energy bill you pay.

RLEC customers can respond to NRECA's (and our) request for help by simply filling in your name and address on the postcard you received with your March energy bill, signing it and returning it to RLEC with your payment in the envelope you received with your bill.

Auto-Pay customers who do not receive a return envelope with their bill can simply complete the postcard and mail it to Red Lake Elec-



tric Cooperative. Post cards received from customers will be forwarded to state and federal legislators for you.

Those who prefer using the internet to communicate with lawmakers can easily join the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign at www.ourenergymn.coop. I used the internet to participate in "Our Energy, Our Future" and it took less than two minutes of my time. Please join me in this effort. Thank you.

Annual Meeting

Included with this month's issue of the Volts and Jolts, is a copy of our annual report to the membership. I invite each of you to take a few minutes to look over the report and to attend this year's annual meeting which will be held again at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. The format of the meeting will be similar to those held in previous (7134008.01 Randy Green) years; we will provide you with information about your electric cooperative, give away a few door prizes, provide some entertainment and serve you a noon lunch. I hope you can make it and look forward to seeing you there.



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Heat pump tax credits and rebates

For incentive purposes, there has never been a better time to install an air source or a geothermal heat pump. Installing an energy efficient heat pump can lower your federal tax bill, qualify you for a rebate and lower your energy bills.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (federal stimulus package) provides additional federal tax credits for any homeowner who makes energy efficient home improvements. Two items that qualify for the tax credits are air source heat pumps and geothermal heat pumps.

Tax credits for air source heat pumps and other home efficiency improvements can total 30 percent of the installation cost up to \$1,500. The lifetime cap of \$1,500 applies to any efficiency improvements that are completed between Feb. 18, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2010.

In order for an air source heat pump to qualify for the tax credit, the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) must be at least 15, an Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) of at least 12.5 and an Heating Sea-

sonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of at least 8.5. Any heating/air conditioning contractor can inform you as to which units qualify.

The law removes the federal tax credit cap that was on geothermal heat pumps. (5204001.02 Esther Evenson) Qualifying geothermal heat pumps installed starting in 2009 through Dec. 21, 2016 are eligible for a tax credit for 30 percent of the installation cost, with no maximum.

Geothermal heat pumps must meet Energy Star criteria. Currently, the criteria for Energy Star geothermal heat pumps are: for a closed-loop system, 14.1 EER and a Co-efficient of Performance (COP) of at least 3.3; for an open loop system 16.2 EER and a COP of at least 3.6. The geothermal heat pump must include a desuperheater, which helps heat domestic water.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative also offers rebates on heat pumps. Currently, an air source heat pump with a SEER of 14 or greater qualifies for a \$200 rebate. An Energy Star geothermal heat pump quali-

fies for a \$500 rebate. These rebates may become more attractive shortly, especially for the geothermal heat pump.

Installing an efficient heat pump not only qualifies for a tax credit and a rebate, but will also help make your home energy bills less expensive.

From the Mailbag

DEAR RLEC

Thank you so much for the nice Dip Master Crock-Pot I won at the District 8 meeting.

George M. Johnson
Thief River Falls

DEAR RLEC

Thanks for the oak shelf I won at the District 7 meeting at Oak Park Church.

Juell Chervestad
Oklee

Lignite Energy Council revamps teacher seminar

The Lignite Energy Council's Teacher Seminar gets a "face-lift" in 2009. This summer, the "2009 Lignite Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment," adds an additional day to the agenda and offers two semester graduate credits.

Educators from the four-state region including North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, are encouraged to register early for the seminar that will be held June 15 through 18 at Bismarck State College.

Expanding to a four-day seminar will provide more time for additional topics. Economics of the industry, the need for more workers, energy conservation and transmission are all topics that are becoming more important to North Dakota and the surrounding region.

Attendees will tour a lignite mine, a power plant fueled by lignite and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. In addition, teachers will tour the visitor's center at Fort Mandan, near Washburn, N.D., where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent its first winter. The visitor's center was constructed with the use of coal combustion byproducts.

Minnkota Power Cooperative is sponsoring 10 teachers from its Minnesota service area by paying the full teacher registration fee of \$60, plus round-trip mileage to the



A group of teachers checks out the mammoth dragline at Falkirk Mine near Underwood, N.D., during the seminar's tour of coal country.

seminar in Bismarck. Rooms are provided at Bismarck State College at no charge.

Teachers who attend the seminar and complete the seminar require-

ments can choose from three North Dakota universities to receive their two semester graduate credits: economics through the University of North Dakota, science through Minot State University or education through North Dakota State University.

Teachers from all grade levels are encouraged to apply to the program but earth science, social studies and energy education teachers will be given top consideration. Past attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend and will be able to receive the two graduate credits as well.

Application materials will be mailed to teachers and schools throughout the region. All applications should be submitted by April 30.

For more detailed information, visit www.lignite.com/teachers or www.minnkota.com.

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, about 30 million tons of lignite are produced in North Dakota and converted to electricity, synthetic natural gas, fertilizer and other products. The industry supports about 25,000 employees in North Dakota and is responsible for about \$2.8 billion in economic activity in the state.

RLEC Closed Good Friday

In celebration of Easter, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Good Friday, April 10. In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number: 218-253-2200.

Have a joyous Easter celebration.

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



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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 KWH9.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.)6.6¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)7.5¢ 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.

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.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

VOLTS & JOLTS

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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.

Recipe corner

Beef Stew with Herb Dumplings

1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 lbs. beef stew meat
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
4 c. water
5 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 medium onions, chopped
1-1/2 c. sliced carrots (1/2-inch pieces)
1 c. chopped celery
2 tbsp. minced fresh parsley
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1 bay leaf
Browning sauce, optional
Dumplings:
1-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
3/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1/4 tsp. rubbed sage
3 tbsp. shortening
3/4 c. milk

In a resealable plastic bag, combine flour, salt and pepper. Add beef, a few pieces at a time, and shake to coat. In a Dutch oven, brown meat in oil. Add water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 1-1/2 hours. Add vegetables, parsley, thyme and bay leaf. Cover and simmer until meat and vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes. Discard bay leaf. Add browning sauce if desired.

For dumplings, combine flour, baking powder, salt, thyme and sage. Cut in shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in milk until moistened. Drop by heaping tablespoonfuls onto simmering stew. Cover and simmer 15-20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in a dumpling comes out clean (do not lift cover while simmering). Serve immediately. Yield: 10-12 servings.

Sweet and Sour Pork

Recipe uses less fat, sugar or salt and includes nutritional analysis and diabetic exchanges.

1/4 c. cornstarch
Egg substitute equivalent to 1 egg
1-1/2 pounds boneless pork, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
3 tbsp. vegetable oil, divided
1 medium onion, chopped
2 medium carrots, sliced
1 garlic clove, minced
1 medium green pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
2 tbsp. water
1 can (8 oz.) unsweetened pineapple chunks
Sauce:
1 tbsp. cornstarch
1/3 c. packed brown sugar
1/4 tsp. ground ginger or 1/2 tsp. minced fresh gingerroot
1 tbsp. reduced-sodium soy sauce
1/4 c. cider or white wine vinegar
1/4 c. reduced, sodium chicken broth
Hot cooked rice

In a bowl, combine cornstarch and egg substitute until smooth. Add pork; toss to coat. In a skillet or wok, stir-fry half of the pork in 1 tbsp. oil until no longer pink; remove. Repeat with remaining pork and 1 tbsp. oil; set pork aside and keep warm.

Stir-fry onion, carrots and garlic in the remaining oil for 3 minutes. Add green pepper and water; stir for 2 minutes. Drain pineapple, reserving 1/4 c. juice. Add pineapple and pork to skillet. For sauce, combine the cornstarch, brown sugar, ginger, soy sauce, vinegar, broth and reserved pineapple juice; add to skillet. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Serve over rice. Yield: 6 servings.

Nutritional analysis: One serving (calculated without rice) equals 351 calories, 245 mg sodium, 67 mg cholesterol, 28 gm carbohydrate, 26 gm protein, 15 gm fat. Diabetic exchanges: 3 meat, 1 starch, 1 fruit.

Out-of-this-World Brownies

1 c. butter (no substitutes), softened
2 c. sugar
4 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 c. plus 3 tbsp. baking cocoa
1/8 tsp. salt
Brown Butter Frosting:
1/2 c. butter (no substitutes)
4 c. confectioners' sugar
1/4 c. plus
2 tsp. half-and-half cream
2 tsp. vanilla extract
Glaze:
1 square (1 oz.) unsweetened chocolate
1 tbsp. butter (no substitutes)

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour, cocoa and salt; gradually add to the creamed mixture. Spread into an ungreased 13-in. by 9-in. by 2-in. baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean (do not overbake). Cool on wire rack.

For frosting, in a heavy saucepan, cook and stir butter over medium heat for 5-7 minutes or until golden brown. Pour into a mixing bowl; beat in the confectioners' sugar, cream and vanilla. Frost cooled brownies. For glaze, melt chocolate and butter; drizzle over the frosting. Cut into bars. Yield: 3 dozen.

Potato Ham Bake

3 medium potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
2 c. cubed fully cooked ham
1 medium onion, sliced and separated into rings
8 slices process American cheese
1 can (10-3/4 oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1/2 c. frozen peas, thawed

In a greased 3-qt. baking dish, layer half of the potatoes, ham, onion, cheese and soup. Repeat layers. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 1-1/4 hours or until potatoes are almost tender. Sprinkle with peas. Bake, uncovered, for 10 minutes or until heated through. Yield: 6 servings.

Frosted Fudge Brownies

1 c. plus 3 tbsp. butter or margarine
3/4 c. baking cocoa
4 eggs
2 c. sugar
1-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract
Frosting:
6 tbsp. butter or margarine, softened
2-2/3 c. confectioners' sugar
1/2 c. baking cocoa
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 to 1/3 c. milk

In a saucepan, melt butter. Remove from the heat. Stir in cocoa; cool. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs and sugar. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to egg mixture. Stir in vanilla and the cooled chocolate mixture; mix well. Spread into a greased 13-in. by 9-in. by 2-in. baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-28 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean (do not overbake). Cool on a wire rack.

For frosting, in a mixing bowl, cream butter, confectioners' sugar, cocoa and vanilla. Add enough milk until the frosting achieves spreading consistency. Spread over brownies. Cut into bars. Yield: 2 dozen.

Top dairy herds for November DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for February.

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs.
NW Research & Outreach	120	87	73	3.6	2.6	3.2	2.3
Spring Prairie Colony	378	85	67	3.8	2.5	3.1	2.1
E. Duane & Faith Knott	84	89	66	3.9	2.6	3.2	2.1
CB Farms LLC	54	91	66	3.6	2.4	2.9	1.9
Northstar Dairy LCC	848	94	65	3.6	2.3	3.3	2.1
Beyer Bros. Farm	75	93	64	3.5	2.3	3.0	1.9
Robert and Terri Dahlen	55	84	63	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.9
Amundson Dairy	67	88	62	3.5	2.2	3.1	1.9
Walter Bros. Farm	299	87	61	3.5	2.1	3.0	1.8
Tom Jr. & Heather Revier	3X	89	60	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.8

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund seeks outstanding community builders

Since 1998, the Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund has honored 28 women who have demonstrated leadership for improving the quality of their own life or those around them. In our increasingly complex society, the Women's Fund seeks to applaud the efforts of the women who have made Northwest Minnesota a better place to live, work, raise families and have fun.

The Women's Fund is asking for assistance in recognizing these women who live in the counties of Beltrami, Clearwater, Marshall, Hubbard, Pennington, Polk, Kittson, Red Lake, Norman, Mahomen, Roseau and Lake of the Woods. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation Web site at www.nwmf.org or by calling 218-759-2057 or 1-800-659-7859.

All nomination forms must be submitted by May 1. Upon their selection, the advisory committee will plan and host receptions in the recipients' hometowns, to be held in late summer or early fall.

Community Builders awards are given based on the following criteria:

Leadership: A woman who

through leadership roles has made significant contributions to her community, and through volunteerism, citizenship or community service has significantly improved the lives of women and girls.

Outstanding mentor: A woman who has demonstrated wisdom and devotion to helping others; a role model and mentor who has supported and encouraged positive development in young women and who also shows the characteristics necessary for success while actively sharing her skills.

Professional excellence: A woman who has demonstrated leadership and excellence in her work and whose leadership has benefited her community and/or her company; and outstanding entrepreneur; a role model for other women in achieving success in traditional or non-traditional positions.

The Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund, a component of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, serves as a catalyst for improving the quality of life for women and girls by focusing on women's initiatives, leadership and philanthropy to build successful communities.



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NEW AND USED FARM EQUIPMENT PARTS

Investments in efficiency

Continued from Page 1

Even better, you get to keep the money you save on your electricity bill; normal investment incomes are taxed heavily.

The first two energy efficiency areas to invest in—those with the highest rates of return—are lighting and sealing ducts. Upgrading to compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and fixtures in a typical home costs about \$200, but with an annual savings of \$80 the initial investment pays for itself in 2.5 years with a 41 percent rate of return. Proper duct sealing, which can cost up to \$250, pays for itself in 2.6 years and matches lighting's high rate of return.

Your next purchase should be an Energy Star front-loading clothes washer. Even though one costs an average of \$194 more than a non-efficient model, you reap a 37 percent rate of return - allowing you to recoup the extra expense in less than three years.

A programmable thermostat provides another boost to your bottom line. With a 30 percent return it pays for itself through energy savings in 3.7 years.

A water heater tank wrap with an R -12 insulation rating should be your next step; the initial cost of \$85 saves you \$23 every year, offering a 28 percent return on your investment. An Energy Star refrigerator, heat pump, and dishwasher follow with rates of return ranging from 18 percent to 27 percent. Finally, adequate air sealing and increasing wall and attic insulation offer between an 8 percent and 9 percent return.

To find out how you can start investing in your home's efficiency, visit Home Energy Saver at www.hes.lbl.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver.

Megan McKoy writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



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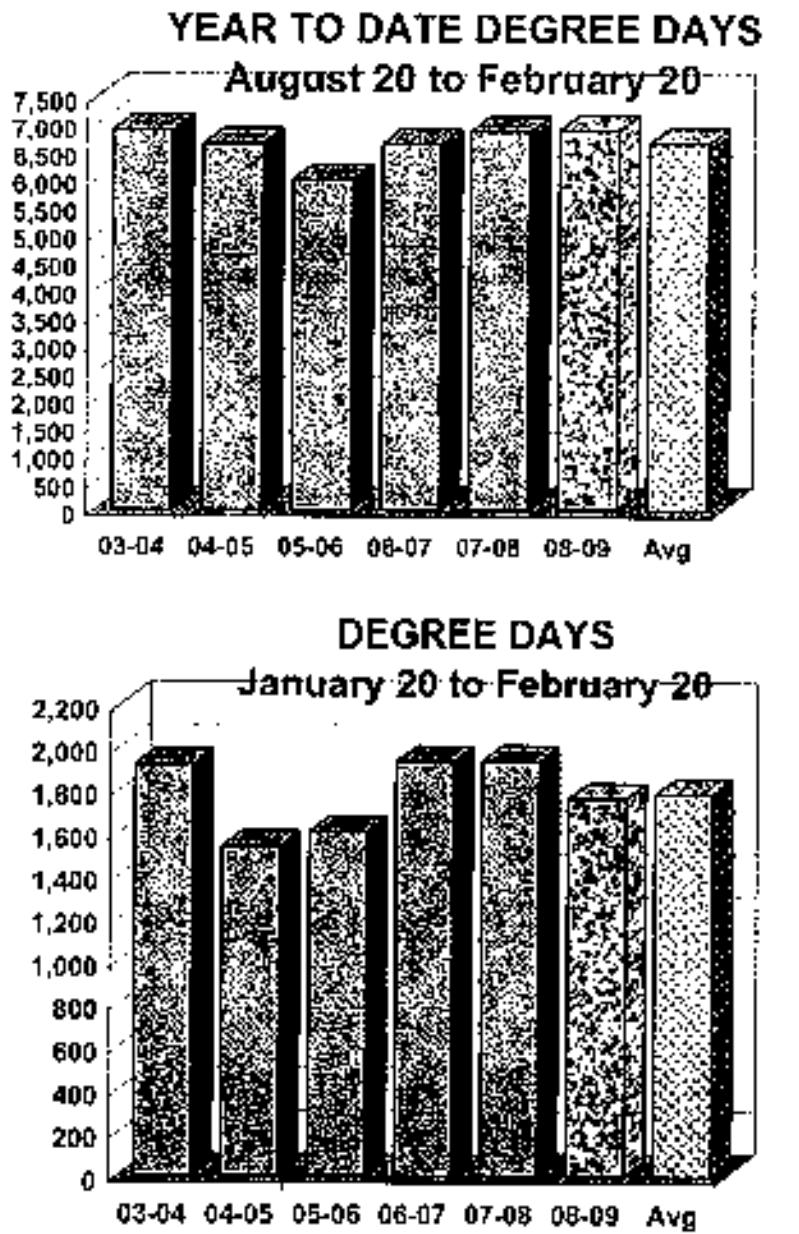
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Posse helps 'round up' the community

By Kevin Reich

For ten years the Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse has been providing service to the Polk County Sheriff's Office for Polk and many surrounding counties, including Red Lake, Mahanomen, Beltrami and Grand Forks.

In 1997, discussion began concerning the possibility of forming a posse. Late that year, members of Polk County law enforcement and potential posse members gathered for the first joint meeting. After several meetings, the Posse was officially formed in 1998 with seven members attending their first state training program in Bagley. Membership was opened to the general public in 1999. Over the past ten years, membership has grown to today's total of 26. During this 10-year span, 60 people have served as Posse volunteers.

Current Posse officers include: Captain Greg Wavra, Red Lake Falls; Lieutenant Linus Desrosier, Red Lake Falls; Sergeant Dan Bertils, Crookston; Jeanie Andringa, secretary, Crookston; Cathy Desrosier, treasurer, Red Lake Falls; Lannis Bergsgaard, equine training officer, Crookston; Kristen Schwarz, search and rescue training officer, Fisher; and Michelle Olson, liaison, Crookston. Additional Posse members include: Bonnie Christians, Scott Christians, Josh Hanson, Lynn Hanson, Don Hunter, Donna Malarkey, Bruce Parr and Tom Tester, Crookston; Nancy Koho and Rhonda Larson, East Grand Forks; Patti Jo Arvidson, Curt Knutson, Paul Metzger, Travis Schwarz and Travis Thorvilson, Fisher; Jose Zentino, Red Lake Falls; Debbie Arneberg, Fosston; and Wayne Thoreson, Climax.

The Posse is utilized in assisting the Polk County Sheriff's department in search and rescue and recovery of persons and/or evidence. Posse members are responsible for promoting community relations by working at county or city functions. They assist by helping to maintain order and security and provide traffic control.

Training and continuing education is a strict requirement for posse volunteers. Training includes: First Aid and CPR, self-defense, 20 hours of ride along with a Polk County Sher-



Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse members lineup before they begin an evidence recovery training session. Volunteers for the Posse come from all across Polk county spanning from East Grand Forks to Fosston. A few volunteers are also from Red Lake County.



Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse members who participated in an evidence recovery training session held Feb. 21 are, front from left, Kristen Schwarz, Linus Desrosier, Michelle Olson, Jose Zentino; back, Lannis Bergsgaard, Travis Schwarz, Jeanie Andringa, Dan Bertils, Cathy Desrosier, Curt Knutson, Josh Hanson and Tom Tester. The training session was held on the Dan Bertils farm near Crookston.

iff patrol, an approved Police Mounted Patrol Training course and attending at least 75 percent of all scheduled meetings, events and continuing education sessions. All training and volunteerism is done at the expense of the posse member. Approximately 50 percent of volunteer hours are committed to training and meetings.

Since the Posse's organization ten years ago, over 20,000 volunteer hours have been donated on behalf of the posse members. Call outs for members have included: missing persons, where one search involved over 750 hours; securing plane crash sites; water recovery; crime scene security; evidence searching; hospital call outs for guarding prisoners; and securing possible gravesite findings.

Community events that posse members have volunteered at include: Polk County Fair, parades, Relay For Life, community celebrations, concerts and dances and military recognition events. They also make community members aware of the Posse and its mission by providing information at area schools and other civic organizations.

All monies needed to support the Posse and necessary equipment come from donations and grants. Grants have included funds from Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Program. Training requirements, personal equipment and horses and tack are at the expense of posse members. Anyone wishing to provide support can send donations to Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse c/o Cathy Desrosier, 24400 160th Ave. SW, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

One does not have to be a horseman and/or own a horse to be a posse member. There are volunteers that serve by providing ground support. Anyone having an interest in being a part of the Posse can contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office at 218-281-0431.

Volunteers and civic organizations play a vital role in helping make a community whole. Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse members help to fulfill that role as they work and ride to round up the community.

More photos on page 5.

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Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse members Dan Bertils, Crookston, foreground, and Linus Desrosier, Red Lake Falls, look over some evidence they recovered during a training exercise. Training exercises are conducted on a regular basis to provide continuing education for Posse members.



Michelle Olson, Crookston, serves as a volunteer with the Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse. She searches through brush in the woods looking for evidence as part of an evidence recovery training session. The session was held Feb. 21 on the Dan Bertils farm east of Crookston.



In order to be a member of the Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, one must be willing to make a commitment in terms of time. Approximately 50 percent of volunteered hours are for training and continuing education. Posse members participating in a training session are, from left, Travis Schwarz, Jeanie Andringa and Curt Knutson.



Owning a horse or being a horseman is not a pre-requisite to be a member of the Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse. Volunteers are also necessary to provide ground support. Posse members participating in an evidence training session are, from left, Tom Tester, Linus Desrosier, Lannis Bergsgaard and Dan Bertils.



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Minnesota budget deficit may impact future electric bills

By Lee Sundberg, Director of Government Affairs, Minnesota Rural Electric Association

The 2009 Minnesota Legislature entered the legislative session on January 6 with both hands tied behind its back. Finding solutions to the projected budget deficit of approximately \$5.0 billion will be a painful orderal for both Democrats and Republicans. Unexpected increases in tax revenues are not likely to fill the gap, and many economists are looking to additional government spending to help get the economy rolling again. So, where are the funds to come from?

As bad as this budget situation facing all Minnesota citizens might be, it could become even worse for electric ratepayers. How could that happen? In finding budget solutions, programs that can be absorbed by private entities are key targets. For example, special energy programs receiving state assistance as taxpayer-supported subsidies or incentives, such as solar rebates or sales tax exemption, are shifted to private entities and will appear as an indirect hidden tax on your electric bill. Because of the size of the budget deficit, some observers are concerned that a new or increased tax or fee on electrici-



ty use will surface. A "state-only cap-and-trade program" and a "carbon impact fee" on electric bills have been mentioned as possible, partial means to help fill the budget hole.

The other side of the coin, and the potential good news hiding behind budget fixes and the declining economy, is that the Legislature might postpone adding on subsidized renewable energy programs

at the expense of all electric ratepayers across the state.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and all of Minnesota's electric cooperatives support the current legislative policy that allows electric cooperatives to meet the nation-leading 25 percent renewable energy standards (RES) with the most efficient and cost-effective renewable energy technologies.

We oppose, however, recent proposals, called "feed-in tariffs," "solar carve outs" and "must-buy Community-based Economic Development (CBED) mandate," designed to force electric consumer to subsidize non-competitively priced renewable energy projects. It should not be the responsibility of non-profit electric cooperatives to guarantee a profit for high-priced, non-competitive renewable technologies. Many of us receive subsidies or incentives in some form, but none are (or should be) paid for through a vital commodity, such as electricity, needed for our homes, commerce and production of goods and services.

Northwest Minnesota Foundation economic summit set for May 12

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) is set to celebrate the innovation of Northwest Minnesota and explore new ways to enhance our region's economy.

Focused on entrepreneurship and business investment, registrations are now open for the 2009 regional economic summit taking place on May 12 at the University of Minnesota Crookston's Bede Ballroom. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and features keynote speaker Rich Karlgaard, the publisher of Forbes, the world's most popular business and financial magazine, read by 4.5 million people per issue.

"It is important to bring a practical perspective to a challenging economic climate," says NMF President Nancy Vyskocil. "We think that now is the time to look for proactive and innovative ideas to start, sustain and grow business and encourage the economic vitality of the region."

Following Karlgaard's keynote on Twelve Types of Innovation to Save your Company and Career, a panel of talented entrepreneurs and experts moderated by Bruce Brorson of UMC will discuss The Business of Innovation.

Topics include: Is innovation more or less important than it was a decade ago? What role does innovation play in engaging customers? How do you nurture and reward creative thinking? How do you turn blue-sky ideas into revenue generators? What role does "green" play in your company?

The IDEA competition taking place in the region will also be highlighted during lunch with the presentation of the award winners by Dr. Charles Casey, UMC Chancellor. IDEA is an acronym for Ingenuity Drives Entrepreneur Acceleration. It is a project designed to assist the most promising local entrepreneurs in the commercialization of innovative products, processes and deliveries by connecting them to the best resources available, along with access to the capital it takes to launch a successful venture. Up to five entrepreneurs will be awarded as much as \$10,000 for their winning idea.

Jeff Stamp, assistant professor and chair of entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of North Dakota is presenting a keynote, followed by Bill Payne, an angel investor who has funded dozens of start-ups through the years and consults with companies and angel groups all over the world. Payne will then moderate Innovations in Investment, a panel discussion that will include the following topics: How entrepreneurs find investors and apply for funding; the range of deals investors have seen or funded; how angels help entrepreneurs after funding.

To wrap up the day, a reception will be held, beginning at 5 p.m. Registration fees are Early Bird \$99 before April 28 and \$129 before May 7. For more information or to register, visit www.nwmf.org or call Lisa Peterson at 800-659-7859.

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Minnesota state park camping and lodging sites filling fast for summer

State parks already half full for Memorial Day weekend

If people are thinking about packing up the children, the dog and the fishing gear for a weekend getaway at a Minnesota state park this spring or summer, they better not wait too much longer to make reservations, advised the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

"Camper cabins and electric campsites may be hard to come by in certain parks for Memorial weekend," said Forrest Boe, deputy director of the Parks and Trails Division, "which may mean more Minnesotans are planning to vacation closer to home this year."

Families who just want to pitch a tent will still find plenty of sites available, but reservations for Friday and Saturday nights at the most popular parks, won't last long, according to Boe.

For those not planning to stay overnight, there will be plenty to do for day visitors.

Park naturalists have put togeth-

	Memorial Day	July 4	Labor Day
Overall	50 percent	66 percent	80 percent
Electric Campsite	15 percent	40 percent	60 percent
Non-Electric Campsites	70 percent	80 percent	90 percent
Camper Cabins	5 percent	25 percent	55 percent
Lodging	15 percent	35 percent	80 percent

er more than 300 programs in an effort to get families with young children outdoors this spring and summer. Programs include fishing clinics, wildflower walks, and voyageur canoe rides.

For details on the place and time of these events, visit www.mnstateparks.info.

Last June, state parks began accepting reservations up to a year in advance. Previously reservations could only be made up to 90 days in advance. Reservations for the upcoming vacation season are clearly coming in strong, so make

reservations early.

The numbers in the chart indicate the approximate percentage of Minnesota state parks' reservable inventory that are still available for holiday weekends in 2009.

Minnesota state parks still make about a third of campsites available on a first-come, first-serve basis for travelers who arrive without reservations. However, Minnesota state park campsites are very popular, so reservations are recommended when it's possible to plan ahead.

For details on Minnesota's state parks, including descriptions of each park's scenery, wildlife and recreational opportunities, call 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367 or visit www.mnstateparks.info.

To make camping or lodging reservations, call 866-85PARKS or 866-857-2757 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily, or visit www.stayatmnparks.com.

Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund calls for proposals for grants and scholarships

The Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund is calling for funding proposals for programs and services that benefit women and girls within the twelve county Northwest Minnesota Foundation service area.

Organizations with 501(c)(3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to projects that have a positive impact on women's issues related to the economic downturn.

In addition, scholarships for women who reside in the region are now being offered for female students who are attending regional post-secondary institutions.

Counties served by NMF are Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

Women As Resources Grants

The Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund believes that women are an essential resource in communities; they are vital partners in the social and economic stability of the region. As community partners, women and girls should have

unlimited access to education and employment opportunities. Moreover, they should be enabled and encouraged to assume leadership roles in areas they choose.

The Women's Fund will consider grant requests of up to \$2,500 addressing one or more of the following areas meeting the needs of females: cultural interactions, economic development, education, healthcare or housing. Manner of presentation can include: forums, speakers, workshops, individual career counseling or scholarships for state and national conferences.

Selection criteria will focus on how the proposal meets the Women's Fund mission, the scope of the project focusing beyond traditional opportunities, how the project is inclusive to all types of diversity, the geographic area served and the number of participants, number of communities and number of organizations that are served.

Scholarships for Women

In addition, the Women's Fund offers scholarships to women from the 12 counties in the Women's Fund service area who are pursuing post-secondary education at a pub-

lic higher education institution in the area such as Bemidji State University, Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks, the University of Minnesota, Crookston and the White Earth Tribal College. Preference will be given to women who intend to remain in the region upon graduation. Scholarship funds are to be used for tuition and books or direct educational material expenses.

Three scholarships will be awarded each for \$300.

As advised by a donor, one scholarship is designated for a woman attending the University of Minnesota, Crookston, with preference given to an older than average woman student.

The deadline for submission of proposals and scholarship applications is May 1. The grants will be awarded by June 29. The grant and scholarship applications and guidelines are available on the NMF web site www.nwmf.org, or contact Lisa Peterson at 218-759-2057 or 800-659-7859, e-mail lisap@nwmf.org.

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Minutes of the annual meeting held Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls

The 70th annual meeting of the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Wednesday, March 26th, 2008 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. President Kelly Lundeen called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Approximately 375 members and guests were in attendance.

Lundeen thanked Vern Rogalla for the pre-meeting musical entertainment he provided. Amelia Schmitz, a senior at Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls, sang the national anthem. Roger Johanneck gave an invocation, and current and former board members were introduced.

President Lundeen then called the business meeting to order. Secretary Henry Wieland then read the affidavit of mailing and quorum declaration.

Lundeen entertained a motion that the 2007 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 his president's report, Kelly Lundeen said the past year of 2007 was very good in many respects. Outage time per customer averaged 1.8 hours, over \$500,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements, and member equity was a strong 51 % of assets. He thanked employees for their safe working habits and complimented them on achieving five years without a lost-time accident. Lundeen said that the Board of Directors had spent considerable time on the selection of a new general manager and had selected Roger Johanneck, current manager of finance and administration, as the general manager effective May 1, 2008.

Johanneck next gave the 2007 Financial Report and said energy

sales were at an all-time high in 2007. Revenues were \$8.2 million and the cost of wholesale power was \$5.2 million. He said the margin of \$749,228 was an all time high also. Johanneck reviewed various operating expenses, fixed expenses and items on the balance sheet. He said RLEC fared very well financially in 2007 and was on firm financial ground.

Ron Kennedy, general manager, gave his report and discussed energy conservation efforts and sales data. He said that electrical usage by customers in February had exceeded the previous record high by 9.7%. He also said the controlled and uncontrolled peak demands registered in the past winter had exceeded the previous record highs by 10.7% and 9.6% respectively. Cold weather and customers switching from fossil fuels to electricity for heating had likely caused the large increases. Kennedy said that the higher usage and demands would likely remain in future years also, as fossil fuel prices are projected to remain high. This spike in usage and demand, he said, was causing a reevaluation of load growth projections, generation capacity needs, and distribution system upgrades. Kennedy, who is retiring in May, thanked members, employees and directors for their support during his tenure as general manager.

Dave Loer, Minnkota Power CEO, talked about power supply issues, wind generation, load control, and climate change. He said that a third coal-fired unit at the Young Station was put on hold for at least five years, due to one of the partners dropping out of the project, and the uncertainty of the future for coal-fired generation. Loer said the Langdon wind farm was operating well and the Minnkota's cost of

electricity generated there was competitive with the regional market price. He assured customers that load control was only used when electric load exceeded Minnkota's economical generation and market prices were too high. Loer said he is very concerned about detrimental legislation curbing carbon dioxide from coal power plants. He said the earth's climate has always been changing and he seriously questioned the effect of man on the earth's temperatures.

President Lundeen 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 Wieland verified the nominees elected at the district meetings and said there had been no nominations by petition. Lundeen then declared the following three people duly elected as directors for three-year terms: district I, Bonnie Christians; district 4, Steve Linder; and district 5, Mark Hanson.

Lundeen 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.

Kennedy said Cooperative employees had now completed over five years without any lost time accidents. He presented safe worker awards to Roger Valley (5 years), Steve Kruse (10 years), and Bob Guillemette (25 years).

Kim Swanson, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust board, presented a \$500 grant check to Deanna Sorvig of the Pennington / Red Lake Counties Victim Services. Sorvig thanked the members for their participation in the Operation Round Up program and said the grant would be used to provide

essential help for victims of crime. Lundeen presented a plaque to retiring general manager Ron Kennedy.

Kevin Reich awarded door prizes, and a special attendance prize to long-term member and frequent meeting attendee Rueben

Bennitt. Lunch was served by St. Joseph's School Group of Red Lake Falls.

Energy Policy 101

An ever-growing list of terms and acronyms describe aspects of public policy that can have a very real impact on electric bills at home. As energy policy gets shaped through the actions of a new administration and Congress, expect to hear more about the terms below.

Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)
Laws passed by 28 states and Washington, D.C., (as of 2008) that require investor-owned utilities, some municipal electric systems, and electric generation suppliers to add increasing amounts of 'clean and green' energy to their power supply mix by a certain date. Eighteen states call for electric co-ops to meet RPS mandates.

Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs)
Federal bonds that act as interest-free loans and provide not-for-profit electric co-ops with a way to invest in renewable generation. Co-ops had used \$450 million in CREBs for renewable generation projects by the end of 2008.

Production Tax Credit (PTC)
A federal tax incentive designed to support the introduction of new renewable energy sources (such as wind, geothermal, biomass, and small hydropower) by investor-owned utilities. Electric co-ops are not eligible for the PTC, but can use CREBs for the same purpose.

Cap and Trade
A system of regulating greenhouse gases (GHG), like carbon dioxide, where each source (like a power plant) has a limit placed on the amount of gases it can release—the cap. Those who emit less than the cap can sell their extra allowances to those who are not able to make reductions as easily—the trade.

Carbon Tax
A proposed tax on energy sources that emit carbon dioxide, based on the carbon content of a particular fuel, meant to curb both carbon emissions and consumption of coal, natural gas, and oil. The resulting revenue could be used to fund environmental projects, reduce other taxes, or returned to taxpayers via rebates.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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