



Volts & Jolts

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

One of the Minnesota Power Systems

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

FEBRUARY 2017

Why you should attend our annual meeting

It's that time of year again – annual meeting time! On behalf of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we'd like to personally invite you to join us on March 29, 2017, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. We look forward to gathering with you – members of the co-op community – to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community – it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Red Lake Electric and get to know your co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible to gather feedback from you by providing a forum (1317001.03 Christopher J. Bengtson) where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. Our employees and directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too.

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us on March 29, 2017, at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

Director nominations, petitions due Feb. 27

Each year the terms of three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) directors expire the day of the annual meeting. Members of each of the three districts whose terms of the present directors will expire March 29 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Bonnie Christians, Crookston, District 1; Steve Linder, Oklee, District 4; and Mark Hanson, Thief River Falls, District 5.

Their names will be placed in the nomination at the annual meeting. Any other member within these districts wishing to have their name placed in nomination must do so by petition. The petition is due in the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls by 10 a.m. Feb. 27.

At least 15 members of the district must sign the petition for the director nominee. The nominee's name will then be placed on the election ballot at the annual meeting March 29 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Roger Johanneck, general manager, at 800-245-6068 or 253-2168 for more information.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

– OF –

ANNUAL MEETING

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2016 in review, financial reports and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary

Red Lake Electric Cooperative DIRECTOR QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

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



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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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



AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
Email: redlake@minnkota.com

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

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

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

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

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Upholding cooperative principles

By the time this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* reaches your mailbox, Red Lake Electric Cooperative, along with other Minnesota rural electric cooperatives, will have met in St. Paul for the annual meeting of our statewide organization, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, or MREA as we call it.

A good share of the annual meeting is devoted to hearing legislators talk about issues going on at the statewide level and from other presenters on topics pertinent to our industry. There is also a time set aside for attendees to visit the state capitol building and meet with our area representatives on topics that may surface in the legislature.

While most years there are multiple issues and legislation being considered that impact rural electric cooperatives, this year's main legislative concern and focus for the MREA is toward local democracy legislation.

The push for this legislation by electric cooperatives is born out of a concern that local member control is being eroded by renewable energy advocates who have bypassed elected cooperatives' boards of directors and approached the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for rate policy intervention regarding fees for distributed generation (DG) interconnections. In 2015, the state legislature specifically authorized electric cooperatives to recover appropriately recognized costs associated with serving distributed generation accounts.

Democratic Member Control is one of the seven cooperative principles. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members. Members elect the men and women to serve on their cooperative's board of directors. Your elected directors actively participate in setting policies, rates and making a host of other decisions while balancing the

needs of all the membership. The men and women serving as your elected representatives are accountable to the membership. If members don't think their director is serving their cooperative's best interest, members have the right and obligation to elect someone else to represent them on the cooperative board of directors.

An example of this local control cooperative principle was recently on display the first week of February. Three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's nine districts held meetings for the purpose of nominating a director candidate to be placed on the election ballot at the cooperative's upcoming annual meeting.

Members participating at their local district meeting know the person they are electing to represent them at the cooperative. If they are not neighbors, they know each other by association at church or school, or from serving together as a volunteer in their local communities. Directors elected by their neighbors, we believe, are better suited to know the unique varying needs of the cooperatives they serve than

by the appointed few serving at the PUC in St. Paul.

Electric cooperative leaders think the clarification they are proposing through the local democracy legislation will help preserve the local control for members of electric cooperatives. If you agree, I invite you to contact our governor (2802002.06 Cory Peterson) and ask him when the local democracy legislation (House file 234 and Senate File 141) reaches his desk, to sign it.

Contact information for the governor:

Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Or visit our website, www.redlakeelectric.com, for your legislative contacts.





Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier



Meetings

The Red Lake Electric district meetings for 2017 are history. It was nice to see many of our members at these meetings. I enjoy visiting with our members and hearing comments and concerns. It is also an opportunity for you to find out what your cooperative is doing as well as the opportunity to nominate the member you wish to represent you on the cooperative's board of directors. With the district meetings behind us, the focus now turns to the annual meeting which will be held March 29 in Thief River Falls.

Capital credits

Your Red Lake Electric board of directors recently approved the payment of \$490,000 in capital credits. If you were a member in 1999 and are still a member receiving an electric bill from Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC), your portion of this payment (3114004.03 Linda Brandt) will appear on the electric bill you receive in March.

If you are a newer member, you may be asking what capital credits are. Capital credits reflect a member's ownership in the cooperative. Simply put, capital credits are the amount of revenue left over at

the end of the business year once all the operating expenses have been paid. At the end of 2016, the cooperative had margins (revenue minus expenses) of \$625,655. Being we are a not-for-profit cooperative, this amount will be divided between the 4,432 RLEC members based on how much each member paid for their electricity in 2016. This assignment of capital credits will remain in each member's account to be used by the cooperative to build new or rebuild aging infrastructure, improve capacity and operate the cooperative.

Your cooperative has an equity plan in place which guides the board in the annual evaluation of retiring capital credits to the membership. When a payout is approved by the board of directors, the oldest capital credits are paid back first. RLEC retires credits on a rotation, which helps the co-op maintain an ideal equity level. If you have moved and no longer receive an electric bill from RLEC, you will receive a check mid-March.

Like always, if you have a question or concern, please call our office at 1-800-245-6068 or email us at redlake@minnkota.com. Watch for your capital credit payment and I hope to see you at the annual meeting on March 29.

Recipe Corner



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

Cheesecake Brownies

For the brownies:

- 1¼ sticks unsalted butter, melted
- 1¼ cups granulated sugar
- ¾ cup cocoa powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, cold
- ½ cup plain/all-purpose flour

For the cheesecake

- 2¼ cups full fat cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour

Brownies:

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line the bottom and sides of an 8x8-inch baking pan with aluminum foil, leaving an overhang on two opposite sides. Set aside.

Whisk together butter, sugar, salt and cocoa powder. Stir in vanilla extract, then mix in the eggs one at a time. Fold in the flour until fully incorporated, beating until thick and shiny, about 40-50 strokes.

Reserve ¼ cup of the batter and set aside. Pour remaining batter into prepared pan and spread out evenly. Bake 15-20 minutes or until center of brownies is mostly set. Allow to cool in pan on a wire rack while preparing the cheesecake.

Cheesecake:

Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat cream cheese and sugar until combined. Beat in the egg, then fold in vanilla extract and flour. Pour mixture over brownie layer and spread out evenly. Spoon reserved brownie batter on top, and using a toothpick, create swirls.

Bake for 20-30 minutes or until cheesecake center is almost set, but still a little jiggly. Cool to room temperature, then refrigerate for 4-5 hours. Cut into bars and serve.

VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

Members that are corporations, churches, townships, schools or other government units may vote at the annual meeting. This form must be filled out, signed by officers and presented at the annual meeting registration desk or returned with a mail ballot.

The _____ has, at an official
Name of Member

meeting, designated _____
Name of Delegate

to represent us at the 2017 annual meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attest _____
Chairman or President

Attest _____
Clerk or Secretary




**Your energy.
Your choice.**

Infinity
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Through the Infinity Renewable Energy program, you can decide how much of the electricity you purchase is generated by renewable resources.

Contact RLEC today to learn more about the program.

District meetings held in February

Three district meetings were held within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) service area the beginning of February. Topics reviewed at the meetings included 2016 in review, the Clean Power Plan, efficiency rebate incentives, website tutorial and employee update.

In his manager's report, Roger Johanneck discussed current year activities, citing a number of different accomplishments by the Cooperative in 2016. Johanneck pointed out that Minnkota's wholesale power cost will increase 2.9 percent in 2017, but stated RLEC does not plan to have a rate increase. He talked about the Clean Power Plan, what it is, what impact could it have and what will happen next?

Shirley Bregier, manager of finance and administration, gave an employee update of office and linemen personnel. Bregier gave a short tutorial of the new Red Lake Electric website.

In her report from member services, Kelli Brateng shared the many options available for electric heat and electric water

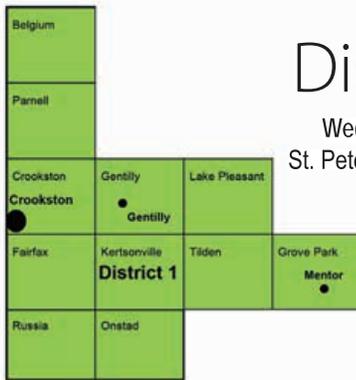
heater rebate incentives. Brateng also informed members on the option to receive text or email notifications during load management periods. She also gave an update on the employee services available in the member service department.

The District 1 meeting was held Feb. 1 at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Cooperative members in attendance unanimously elected Bonnie Christians, the incumbent director, as the director candidate from the district.

The District 5 meeting was held the evening of Feb. 2 at Community Church International. Incumbent director Mark Hanson was unanimously (3632003.08 Dawne Gullard) elected as the director candidate of the district.

The District 4 meeting was held the morning of Feb. 3 at Oklee Community Hall. Incumbent director Steve Linder was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

A total of 67 members and friends attended the three meetings. Door prizes were awarded and lunch was served.



District 1
Wednesday, Feb. 1
St. Peter's Catholic Church
Gentilly



Door prize winners at the District 1 meeting included Pam Delage, Crookston, clock radio; and Cathy Desrosier, Red Lake Falls, extension cord.



Bonnie Christians and Shirley Bregier visit with Harvey and Janet Solheim at the registration table.



Patty Piche of Red Lake Falls (pictured with husband Roger) was the lucky winner of LED light bulbs at the District 1 meeting.

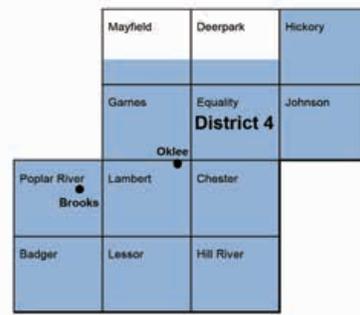


Other District 1 winners were Mary Ann Solie of Crookston, crockpot; and Elroy Maygra, also of Crookston, ratchet straps.





Members enjoyed breakfast and fellowship before the meeting. General Manager Roger Johanneck visits with Lee and Lorna Nielson of Erskine and Steve Linder talks with Einar Kvasager of Oklee.



District 4

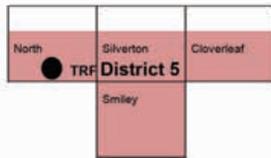
Friday, Feb. 3
Oklee Community Hall
Oklee



Lorna Nielson was appointed secretary during the business meeting.



Door prize winners for District 4 include: Vi Bruggeman, Brooks, LED light bulbs; Vincent Dessellier, Oklee, extension cord; and Annette LaCoursiere, Brooks, wooden sign.



District 5

Thursday, Feb. 2
Community Church International
Thief River Falls



Bonnie Camp of Thief River Falls (pictured with husband Chet) was a District 5 winner of a clock radio.



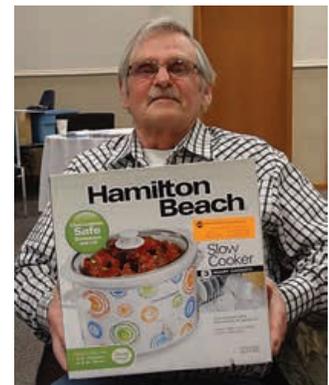
Kathy Kainz of Thief River Falls (pictured with husband Dennis) won a set of ratchet straps at the District 5 meeting.



Twenty-four members and friends were in attendance at the District 5 meeting. Luke Kaushagen volunteered to chair the business meeting.



Luke Kaushagen



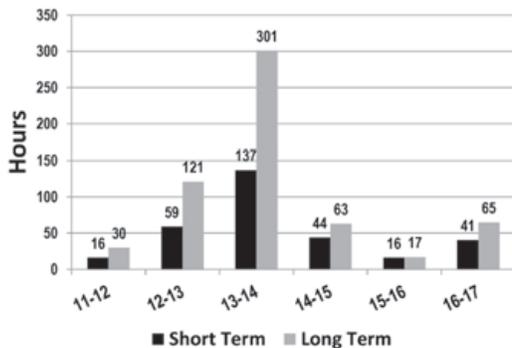
District 5 attendee Myron Anderson of Thief River Falls won a crockpot.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The chart below shows the amount of control time for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's off-peak customers this heating season compared to the same period the past five years. Off-peak control hours are impacted (3432001.01 Olive Wiskow) in a number of ways, including weather, variable energy output from Minnkota's wind energy resources and energy availability in the wholesale energy market.

Off-Peak Control Hours through February 12



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Warmer weather is on the way! Use energy-efficient window treatments or coverings like blinds, shades and films to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home, but also reduce energy costs.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray 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.



Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT COSTS TO RUN A SPACE HEATER?

Calculate the cost before plugging one in.



Most space heaters are 1500 watts. If you're operating a space heater eight hours a day and your rate is 10.2 cents per kWh = (1500 watts x 240 hours/month x .1020 cents/kWh) / 1000 = \$36.72/month

FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete, qualification and application information, contact your local county (2209008.01 Cody & Laura Underdahl) welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Inter-County Community Council

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

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

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

Northwest Community Action

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

Red Lake Community Action Agency

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

ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

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

Date _____ Account Number _____

Social Security Number _____

Signature _____



Operation Round Up® grant applications due March 2

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today 96 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$489,000 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the better-

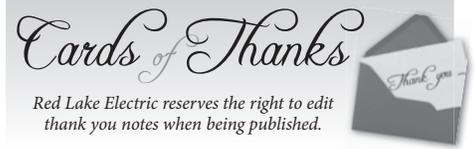
ment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust board of directors determines grants. Board members are Patty Mickelson, Oklee; Julie Stennes, Thief River Falls; Tishara Melcher, Middle River; Roger Johannek, Red Lake Falls; and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation Round Up grants, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed (2612002.14 Darrin J. Momerak) and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization.

Grant application forms are available on the Cooperative's website: www.redlakeelectric.com.

For more information, contact Roger Johannek, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



RLEC Trust,

The Marshall County Board of Commissioners and Marshall County Social Services wish to extend their deep appreciation for your donation during the Christmas season. Because of your generosity, food baskets were delivered to 185 people and 212 children received gifts from the Sharing Tree project.

*Stacey Urbaniak, Case Aide Service
Marshall County Social Services*

RLEC,

Thank you for the nice LED spotlight I won at our District 5 meeting. Enjoyed the meeting and lunch. Also thanks for the great service the co-op provides.

Susie & Wayne Koland

CLASSIFIEDS

Members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.

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

Want Ad Order Form FREE for RLEC members

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

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

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

Use the form below to submit your ads.

Excavation and Concrete BID REQUEST

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is requesting bids to replace an area of its existing parking lot and sidewalk at its headquarters in Red Lake Falls. Work to be done includes removal and disposal of existing asphalt and concrete, approximately 4,532 square feet; and removal and disposal of subsoil, approximately 179 cubic yards, and backfilling with base material.

For complete bid specifications
contact Roger Johannek
at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

218-253-2168

Sealed bids are due 10 a.m. March 17, 2017



**Don't want to write a check?
Want to save on postage?**

Sign up for the free Bill4U payment option to make paying your bill easy. Just go to www.redlakeelectric.com and click on the Bill4U icon. If you have any questions or need more information, call Red Lake Electric 800-245-6068.



**Red Lake Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

2017 Electric Technologies Workshop

Contractors – join us to learn about the newest technologies and to network with fellow contractors, utility representatives and vendors.

Thursday, March 2
Shooting Star Casino & Event Center
Mahnomon, MN

7:15 - 8:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 - 4:00 p.m. Sessions

Drawings at afternoon break

Morning sessions

Underfloor heat storage installation and contractor cash program
Marc Tobin, Smart Heat, Aberdeen, S.D.

Water heating technology including grid-interactive water heaters
Marty Glueckert, Auer Steel & Heating Supply Co.
Steve Koep, Vaughn Inc.

Air-source heat pump systems and troubleshooting
Mike Daniels, Auer Steel & Heating Supply Co.

Cold climate heat pump technology study findings
Nicole Kessler, Center for Energy and the Environment

Rebates and program updates
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., and Otter Tail Power Company

Afternoon breakout sessions

LED lighting products
Carol Tigges, Border States Electric

Geothermal loop field optimization
Ed Lohrenz, GEOptimize Inc.

Door Prizes!

Grand prize: a five piece
20-volt DeWalt tool
set. (\$500 value).

**Many other prizes will be
given away during the day.**



Registration form

Registration fee is \$25 per person. One person per registration form, please.

Make checks payable to: Otter Tail Power Company
(no credit card payments accepted)

Registration is due February 20.

Send completed registration form with your check to:

Idea Center
Otter Tail Power Company
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

For more information contact:

claurence@otpco.com
218-739-8370 or
800-493-3299

Name _____

Email _____

Company _____

Company address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Company phone number _____

Refunds will be issued only with 24-hour prior notification.

***In the case of inclement weather, visit otpco.com
for last-minute postponements or cancellations.***

