



FEBRUARY 2018

Volts & Jolts

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

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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

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 28, 2018, 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 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 for us (4404019.03 Darby J & Jean Barron) to gather feedback from you by providing a forum 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 28, 2018, at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

Director nominations, petitions due Feb. 26

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 28 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Stacy Blawat, Thief River Falls, District 2; Aaron Chervestad, Oklee, District 7; and Cecil Anderson, Thief River Falls, District 8.

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 (7710004.05 Randy Cook) must do so by petition. The petition is due in the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls by 10 a.m. Feb. 26.

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 28 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Roger Johanneck, cooperative 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 their annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2017 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.



Volts & Jolts

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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Randy Versdahl
Vice President Stacy Blawat
Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
Directors Aaron Chervestad,
Bonnie Christians, 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: info@redlakeelectric.com

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

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Northwest corner of Polk and western Marshall Counties:
Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Pennington and eastern Marshall Counties:
Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413

Red Lake and most of Polk Counties:
George Stage – 701-306-3511

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 week-day 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



Learn from the mistakes of others

An incident involving a hit and run just northeast of Holt on the late night of Friday, Jan. 26, had me thinking about the old saw, “learn from the mistakes of others, you won’t live long enough to make them all yourself.” A vehicle had veered off of 300th Street Northeast a half mile east of highway 32 and struck a guy wire on the north side of the road – and left the scene without notifying Red Lake Electric or law enforcement.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) crews were called out shortly after daylight on Saturday morning, the 27th, responding to a member’s call to restore power to their home after waking to find it was cold in the house because the power had gone off during the night.

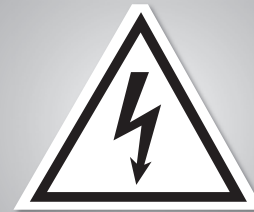
The vehicle collision with the guy wire broke the guy wire, pulled the anchor and broke the conductor which had recoiled, and landed near the vehicle. This conductor, laying coiled up on the snow, was insulated by the snow and there was not enough conductivity to ground to open a breaker and de-energize the line. Our crews at the scene said that the flier’s footprints in the snow were 2 to 3 feet from the energized line.

It is understandable that a vehicle can slip off a snow-packed country road and have a collision with power line equipment. It happens; most would be forgiving of that. What is hard to understand is that someone would leave a potential hazard – in this case, a powerline energized with 7,200 volts – lay within reach of an innocent passerby, snowmobiler, the friend who helped pull them out of the ditch, someone’s pet... you name it. All were put at undue risk because Red Lake Electric or authorities were not contacted immediately to defuse the hazard or to keep others out of harm’s way.

This is not the first time one of Red Lake Electric’s power lines has landed on the ground and has remained energized. It is not a hazard unique to Red Lake Electric either. It is why we have and will

Stay Clear!

*A downed power line may not be a dead line.
It could cause serious injury or death.*



continue to remind, to educate – stay away from downed power lines and keep others away, too. A downed power line should never be assumed to be dead.

To all of you who have had the experience of accidentally damaging our power lines or other electrical equipment and have contacted us to defuse the hazard and pay for the (6224002.05 Bill Paradis) damages – thank you; you did the right thing. For the rest of us who have had the good fortune of not experiencing an encounter with a power line or related electrical equipment – let’s learn from the mistakes and the example of others who have.

80th annual meeting

We are planning your cooperative’s upcoming 80th annual meeting, which is set for March 28 at the Ralph Englestad Arena in Thief River Falls. This will be our 13th consecutive annual meeting held in the Imperial Room at the REA. If you have not been to the annual meeting before, the REA is a great place to hold your Cooperative’s annual meeting. The access to the lower level is made easy with the elevator and Red Lake Electric will again provide rides from the parking lot to the front door with the aid of golf carts. In addition to trading stories with our neighbors, we’ll elect three directors, hear about what is happening at your Cooperative, share a meal while enjoying music by Cathy Erickson and give away some prizes. I hope you can join us at the Cooperative’s annual meeting on March 28 in Thief River Falls.



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier



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.

Meetings

Cooperative principle #2: Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Red Lake Electric recently held three district meetings that gave our members that opportunity. District meetings are also a time for members to find out about the Cooperative's operations and what changes are happening. With the district meetings behind us, the focus turns to the annual meeting to be held March 28 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 2000 and are still a member receiving an electric bill from Red Lake Electric (RLEC), your portion of this payment 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 2017, the Cooperative had margins (revenue minus expenses) of \$566,561. Being we are a not-for-profit cooperative, this amount will be divided between the 4,362 RLEC members based on how much each member paid for their electricity in 2017. 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 (5803002.01 Luke Forness) 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 in March.

If you have a question or concern, please call our office at 1-800-245-6068 or email us at info@redlakeelectric.com. Watch for your capital credit payment and I hope to see you at the annual meeting on March 28.

Magic Turtle Bars

*2 cups crushed vanilla cookies
(I used imitation vanilla wafers)
1/2 cup butter melted (1 stick)
2 bags semi-sweet chocolate chips
1-2 bags Kraft caramel bits
2 cups coarsely chopped pecans
1 can sweetened condensed milk*

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray or grease a 9x13 pan.

Combine crushed cookies and butter until combined and cookie crumbs are moist. Spread evenly in bottom of pan, pressing down to form a crust.

Now start layering the rest of the ingredients: 1 bag chocolate chips, caramel bits, pecans (save out about 1/4 cup for the top), second bag of chocolate chips and remaining pecans.

Drizzle sweetened condensed milk over the entire pan. Make sure to cover all the nooks and crannies.

Bake for 25-30 minutes, just until milk begins to turn golden. Let cool completely before cutting.

Store in airtight container. If you choose to refrigerate these bars, bring them back to room temperature before eating.

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 2018 annual meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attest _____
Chairman or President

Attest _____
Clerk or Secretary



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 how you can participate in the program.

District meetings held in January

Three district meetings were held within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) service area the end of January. Topics reviewed at the meetings included 2017 in review, after-hours call center, Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) update, energy rebate incentives, website tutorial and available payment options.

In his manager's report, Roger Johanneck discussed current year accomplishments, as well as projects RLEC will be working on in 2018. Current year discussion included energy sales, new service construction, safety and a change in after-hours dispatch service. Looking ahead, the Cooperative will accelerate its work on replacing meters with automated metering infrastructure, which will consist of 7,500 new meters and a network to enable communication with the meters. Johanneck also discussed the stable outlook for wholesale energy rates and the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

Shirley Bregier, office manager, gave a short tutorial of the Red Lake Electric website (3829004.05 Larry F. Kraft) and payment options available to members.

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 services department.

The District 2 meeting was held Jan. 30 at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Holt. Cooperative members in attendance unanimously elected Stacy Blawat, the incumbent director, as the director candidate from the district.

The District 8 meeting was held the evening of Jan. 30 at St. John's Lutheran School, Thief River Falls. Cecil Anderson was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district. Previous director Robert Finstad did not seek reelection.

The District 7 meeting was held on Jan. 31 at St. Anne's Catholic Church, Goodridge. Incumbent director, Aaron Chervestad, was (7031008.01 Crookston Water Dept.) unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

A total of 70 members and friends attended the three meetings. Door prizes were awarded and refreshments were served.

District 2

Tuesday, Jan. 30
Nazareth Lutheran Church
Holt



Twenty-nine members and friends were in attendance at the District 2 meeting. Sharon Holmstrom volunteered to chair the business meeting.



(Right) De Etta Hanson of Newfolden (pictured with husband Floyd) was the lucky winner of a 16-piece tool set at the District 2 meeting.



Shirley Bregier greeted Gary Kiesow and all the members at the registration table when they entered Nazareth Lutheran Church.



(Left) District 2 attendee Marla Yonke of Thief River Falls won a crock pot.

District 8

Tuesday, Jan. 30
St. John's Lutheran School
Thief River Falls



Leonard and Marge Geske of Thief River Falls were both winners at the District 8 meeting. Marge won an extension cord and Leonard won a kitchen knife set.



Gladee Koop of Thief River Falls was the lucky winner of a Thermos coffee mug.



The District 8 meeting was held Jan. 30 at St. John's Lutheran School in Thief River Falls.



Door prize winners at the District 8 meeting were Oliver Swanson of Thief River Falls, LED flashlight; and Hallow Johnson, also of Thief River Falls, apple peeler.

District 7

Wednesday, Jan. 31
St. Anne's Catholic Church
Goodridge



(Above) District 7 members enjoyed pie and fellowship after the meeting.



Greg Hilgeman volunteered to chair the District 7 business meeting. Twenty-six members and friends attended the meeting.



(Above) Patty Skibicki of Goodridge was a District 7 winner of a crock pot.

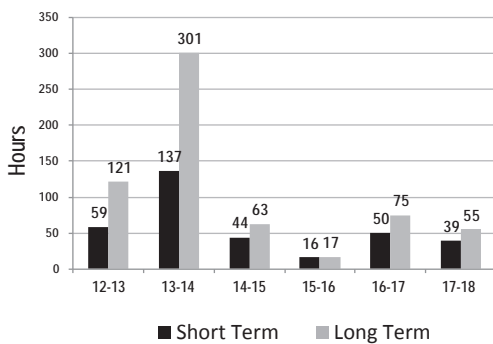
(Left) Margie Coan was appointed secretary during the business meeting and was also the winner of a tape measure.

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 complete season over the past five years. Off-peak control hours are impacted 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
2017-2018 hours through Feb. 11th



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: *energy.gov*

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 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 1

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 (5019002.09 Charles Magnell) Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Thursday, March 1, 2018.

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, \$513,000 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 Julie Stennes, Thief River Falls; Tishara Melcher, Middle River; Diane Kolstoe, Oklee; Roger Johanneck, 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 (2811003.04 Gail Steinhauer) 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 Johanneck, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



Thanks for the ratchet straps I won at the meeting in Holt, also the pie was great.

Dennis Hjelle, Newfolden

Thank you for the crockpot I won at the District 2 meeting in Holt.

Marla Yonke, Thief River Falls

Thank you for your generous support this school year. The Eagle Yearbook would not be possible without you.

Lacie Hovland, Lynn Vathauer and Lafayette High School yearbook staff

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.



RIDE WITH CAUTION

BEWARE OF GUY WIRES

Watch for guy wires – the cables that anchor power poles. Electrical transformer boxes can also be hidden by snow. Driving at a safe speed will help you identify and avoid them before it's too late. If you see damaged electrical equipment, stay away and call RLEC immediately.



**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.

New year. Great rebates.

Electric Heating Rebate Checklist

Must be on off-peak.



☐ Electric plenum heaters

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

☐ Electric thermal storage heaters

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$60 per kW

☐ Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

**Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton
17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton**

☐ Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

**Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton
Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton**

☐ Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

☐ Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$20 per kW

Electric Water Heater Rebate Checklist

Must be on off-peak



☐ 100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

☐ 56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

☐ 55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

☐ Bonus rebates:

Add \$250
if converting from
natural gas or
propane.

Add \$100
for
new building
construction.

Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Checklist – 240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak



☐ Electric vehicle (EV)

\$50 rebate

☐ Residential – Electric golf carts, ATVs, lawn mowers, etc.

\$50 rebate

☐ Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 rebate

**All equipment must be new and installed
on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.**

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168