



OCTOBER 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



Logo Contest

**\$250
Cash Prize!**



**Red Lake Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Let's start the New Year with a new logo; help us design it! Our current logo consists of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's "green ball" symbol and is used by a number electrical cooperatives across the United States. We think it's time for our own look!

**Deadline for submitting design
is Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.**

Basic Rules*

- Must be a member of Red Lake Electric (or a minor in the home of a member).
- One submission per person (no groups); and it must be your own artwork.
- By being chosen as the winning entry, you understand that your artwork becomes the property of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Logo will be chosen by a committee of cooperative employees.
- All judging decisions are final.

**For a complete list of rules and an application, please visit our website or stop by the office.*



7 Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community





OCTOBER 2018 – Vol. 54, No. 1

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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vice President Stacy Blawat
Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
Directors Cecil Anderson,
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Peter Mosbeck

Stephanie Johnson General Manager
Shirley Bregier Manager of Finance
& Administration
Steve Conely Manager of Electric
System Operations
Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services

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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

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 Stephanie Johnson



October is National Co-op Month. This is the time of year when the nation's 30,000 cooperatives take a moment to ensure their employees, members and the general public truly understand the value of the cooperative they own.

Red Lake Electric was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies bypassed rural areas because they believed they could not generate enough profit. Frequent meetings among neighbors were had to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Once established, the cooperative (7220037.03 Christine A. Anderson) was committed to provide the community with electricity.

Today, Red Lake Electric currently serves about 5,400 members. We have returned almost \$12 million to our members since 1938.

All cooperative businesses have, at their foundation, these seven cooperative principles to follow:



1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Looking forward, you can be confident that Red Lake Electric will continue to listen to you and your fellow co-op member-owners on ways to evolve within our community while providing affordable and reliable electricity.

New Logo

Red Lake Electric is holding a new logo contest and is asking for your creative help! The winner will receive \$250. Our current logo is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's "green ball" symbol and is used by other cooperatives across the United States. We believe it is time for our own look! The rules for submitting a design are included in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. So, get your creative juices flowing. We are excited to see the creative ideas of our community.



**Red Lake Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Items For Sale on Bids:

- 6,500 watt 10 hp gas generator
- 12,000 watt PTO generator
- 1986 Yamaha 225 Moto 4-wheeler (2 wheel drive)
- 1977 steel snowmobile trailer

Can be seen at Red Lake Electric during normal business hours.

*Please submit bids
in a sealed envelope to
Red Lake Electric Cooperative
by 10 a.m. on Oct. 25, 2018.*

Understanding the seven cooperative principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England, in 1844. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

Cooperative 7 Principles

1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members (5820001.02 Edward E. Braaten) allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative, and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training, and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.



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

Cheesy Cream Cheese Hamburger Casserole

1 lb. ground beef
1/2 small green pepper, diced
1/2 small red pepper, diced
1/2 medium onion, chopped
2 medium garlic cloves, minced
8 oz. cream cheese, at room temp
or microwave for a minute to soften
1 cup sour cream
1 cup parmesan cheese
1 cup cheddar cheese or mozzarella
12-oz. pasta of your choice cooked al dente
3 cups pasta sauce
salt and pepper to taste

Preheat your oven to 350°. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, saute the hamburger and cook until almost cooked through. Add the onion, peppers, garlic salt, pepper and pasta sauce. Cook until the veggies are cooked through.

In a medium saucepan, boil water for pasta. Add pasta and cook until pasta is just al dente. Do not overcook as the pasta will continue to cook in the oven. Drain.

Add the cream cheese. If you didn't leave it out at room temperature, you can microwave it for a minute. Add sour cream and parmesan cheese.

In a sprayed 9x13 casserole dish, add the pasta mixture. Then add the hamburger mixture on top and stir until everything is loosely combined. Top with the shredded cheddar or mozzarella.

Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until the casserole is heated through. Serve immediately.



In observation of Veterans Day,
Red Lake Electric Cooperative's
headquarters will be closed Monday, Nov. 12



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

*Thank you to all military personnel,
past and present, who have served
and are serving this great nation,
the United States of America.*

Appreciation LUNCH

Thank you to those who braved the weather and made the trek to our headquarters in Red Lake Falls on Wednesday, Oct. 10, for our member appreciation lunch; we hope you enjoyed yourself. Kaylee Cusack from Minnkota Power Cooperative traveled from Grand Forks, N.D., to Red Lake Falls in the all-electric Chevy Bolt. It was the first time Cusack and the Bolt traveled in snow and slush. The Bolt was definitely a conversation piece, and Cusack was great to entertain questions. Red Lake Electric's employees and directors served a hot lunch to the attendees.



Winners of the kids movie baskets:

- Greta Philipp, daughter of Steve & Renae Philipp
- Kegan Schmitz, son of Troy & Stacie Schmitz

Winner of the table top electric grill:

- James F. Nelson of Thief River Falls

Ten winners of \$25 energy credits:

- Diane Torblaa, Warren Hermreck, Larry Martinson and Lori Swanson, all from Thief River Falls; Einar Kvasager and David Bachand of Oklee; Pete Stich, Ruthie Mosbeck and Marilyn Wieland of Red Lake Falls; and Deb Keefe of St. Hilaire.

General Manager Stephanie Johnson (front left) and board of director Cecil Anderson (front right) visit with retired directors (back left) Veral Mosbeck and his wife, June, along with (back right) Henry Wieland and his wife, Marilyn, and son Todd Wieland (back center).



Linemen Branden Narlock and Troy Schmitz were among the many employees who greeted the attendees as they walked through the door.



Operation Round Up® grants total \$12,850

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 15 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$12,850. Since its inception in 1993, 838 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$538,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 94 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

The following two organizations were awarded Round Up funds to help the disadvantaged.

- Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls: \$1,000 for its Umbrella Tree Program that provides (4313001.03 Travis Harbott) supervised child visitations.
- Red Lake County Victim Services: \$500 to help with expenses for victims of a crime.

Four area emergency service providers were awarded grants.

- Goodridge Fire and Rescue: \$1,500 to help purchase Armor radios and a computer.

- Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service: \$2,000 to help purchase LED light bar for ambulance.
- Viking Fire and Rescue: \$700 to help upgrade supplies for first responders and ambulance.
- Plummer Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,500 to help purchase handheld radios.

Monies to benefit the youth were awarded to these seven organizations:

- Early Childhood Family Education (Red Lake County): \$400 to help fund field trip for parents and preschool aged children.
- Marshall County Social Services: \$750 to support Christmas sharing tree and food basket projects.
- Red Lake County Holiday Gift Program (Salvation Army): \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for its annual Holiday program.
- Safety Camp (TRF & Pennington County): \$500 to help purchase safety equipment and safety camp supplies.
- Christmas for Pennington County: \$500 to help purchase Christmas gifts for its annual Holiday program.
- Little Brother / Little Sister Program (TRF): \$1,000 to support active matches through activities and monthly check-ins and recruitment.

- Power of Produce Club: \$500 to provide vouchers to children to expose them to fresh produce and shopping at a Farmers Market.

Two organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants:

- LSS Senior Nutrition Program (Red Lake Falls): \$1,000 to help provide low-income seniors with meals.
- Middle River Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to help with transportation cost to bring seniors to medical appointments.

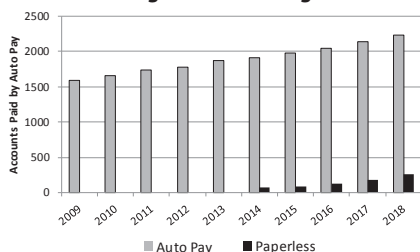
The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are: Tishara Melcher – president, Middle River; Diane Kolstoe – vice president, Oklee; and Julie Stennes – secretary/treasurer, Thief River Falls; ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Stephanie Johnson of Gatzke, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting its website at www.redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for Operation Round Up grant applications is February 22, 2019.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

As the chart below shows, more and more Red Lake Electric Cooperative members enjoy the convenience of Auto Pay. Another convenient and mobile way to pay your bill is through Bill4U. To show our appreciation, members who use Auto Pay or are paperless for their monthly bill will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy (3723004.06 Tim Helt) credit or a Kindle Fire. The drawing will be on Oct. 31. For your convenience, an Auto Pay sign-up sheet is included your latest bill and in this issue of the *Volts & Jolts*. There are also instructions to sign up for paperless billing. Have a question about Auto Pay or going paperless? Give us a call at Red Lake Electric Cooperative today, 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

Auto Pay and Paperless Members Eligible for Drawing



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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

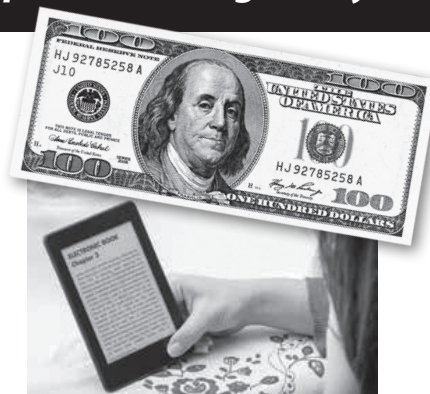


Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric

Win \$100 or a Kindle Fire

Sign up for Auto Pay & paperless billing today!

- Sign up to pay your electric bill with Auto Pay and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire tablet.
- Sign up for paperless billing and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire tablet.
- Sign up for both options and you will be entered in each drawing!
- The drawings will be held Oct. 31, 2018.



Sign up is simple. Go to www.redlakeelectric.com and click on *Bill4U*. Sign in or set up an account. You can either make a payment on the day of your choice or click on the set up automatic payments to sign up for Auto Pay (or use the form below) and/or sign up for paperless billing. Auto Pay will withdraw the amount of your electric bill on the 25th of each month. If you already are an Auto Pay customer, set up an account in Bill4U and sign up for paperless billing. You will receive an email each month when your bill is ready. You will then (5004004.01 Pennington Count Maint. Shed) be able to sign in to Bill4U and see your statement. We also have a free app for your smartphone so you can access your statement wherever you are.

Any questions call 800-245-6068 or email redlake@minnkota.com.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Auto Pay Sign-up Sheet

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

Name (Print) _____ R.L.E.C. Account # _____

Bank Name _____ Checking or Savings account # _____

Sign here to authorize _____

☐ Sign me up for paperless billing.

Please return this sign-up form with a blank voided check to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative Inc.

P.O. Box 430 • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
Phone: 218-253-2168 • Toll Free: 800-245-6068
After hours: 218-253-2200

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

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

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

Red Lake Community Action Agency
Red Lake, MN
Serves Beltrami County
218-679-1880

GUNS AND POWER LINES DO NOT MIX

Hunting is a Minnesota favorite, ranking right up there with the fishing opener. Before you head out to the tree stand, review these hunting safety tips:

- ✓ Treat every firearm as if it were a loaded firearm.
- ✓ Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger. When you look through the sight, look beyond your target. Make sure there isn't another hunter in your sight or a building or structure, such as an electric facility.
- ✓ Never point a firearm at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- ✓ Never shoot at electric power lines or electric facilities such as substations or transformers. Not only is it extremely dangerous, but it is also against the law.
- ✓ Always carry a firearm so that the muzzle is under control.
- ✓ Firearms must always be unloaded when carried into camp or not in use.
- ✓ Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstruction.
- ✓ Unattended firearms must be unloaded.
- ✓ Never climb a fence or ditch with a firearm. Never (4436006.02 Douglas Torblaa) climb into a tree stand with a loaded firearm – remove the ammunition first.
- ✓ Never shoot at flat, hard surfaces or the surface of water. The bullet can hit the surface and travel parallel to it for a long distance.
- ✓ If you see a power line on the ground, don't touch it! Touching an energized power line could kill you. Notify the local utility of a downed line as soon as possible.
- ✓ Always avoid alcohol and drugs while hunting.



With witches, goblins and superheroes descending on neighborhoods, here are some tips for parents to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday.

- 👻 Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you and your child are more visible.
- 👻 Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- 👻 Cross the street only at corners and look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars.
- 👻 Walk on the sidewalk and not the street.
- 👻 Plan your route and carry a flashlight to light your way.
- 👻 Use face paint rather than masks for better visibility.
- 👻 Visit homes that have a porch light on.
- 👻 Never go into a stranger's home. It's OK to receive candy from outside the door.
- 👻 Inspect all treats before your child eats them.
- 👻 Make sure an adult goes with young children.
- 👻 Use glow sticks or flashlights in pumpkins instead of candles, which are a fire risk.
- 👻 Be sure that the path and stairs are well lit and free of obstacles.

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I certify that the information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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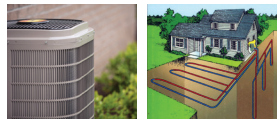


**Red Lake Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

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 (6624003.03 Jamie Wishard) 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



Residential
Charger Commercial
Charger

☐ 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