



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Enjoyable Annual Meeting

We had a great crowd of members and friends at the Lakeview High School in Cottonwood for our Annual Meeting this past month. We had a breakfast buffet serving from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The business meeting started at 10:30 a.m. and concluded at 11:30 a.m. We gave bucket rides to any adults and kids who wanted one before, during and after the meeting, which they all seemed to enjoy. We had door prizes, giveaways and drew for a busload of members to go on the Basin Tour. All in all, we think it was an enjoyable morning. For those of you who came to spend time with us...thank you! Next year's meeting date is March 24th, 2018 at the Lac qui Parle High School, so be sure to mark your calendar. If you've never been to one, hopefully you will plan on it next year. It's your business and your meeting and we do our best to make it enjoyable for you.

Members Approve Bylaw Change

The members present at the Annual Meeting overwhelmingly approved the proposed Bylaw change dealing with director elections. With the change, in addition to having a fellow member nominate you as a candidate at your District Caucus Meeting, you will be able to run by producing a petition of 15 members of your district submitted to the office 30 days ahead of the Annual Meeting. Your name would then be put on the ballot for voting at the Annual Meeting along with candidates nominated at your District Caucus Meeting. The Bylaws are available for you to view on our website.

Construction Underway

The unseasonably pleasant winter allowed us to get to work on the planned construction projects for the year. The roads and ditches firmed up early which allows us to work without causing damage to them as we rebuild line. We have a good amount of construction and maintenance projects to complete this year so it is good to be off and running.

2017 Annual Meeting Results & Photos

MEMBERS REGISTERED

344

MEALS SERVED

675

DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Re-elected to 3-year terms

BYLAW CHANGE

Approved

NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 24th, 2018 at the Lac qui Parle School



Darryl Bursack
District 5



Wayne Peltier
District 7



More photos from the 2017 Annual Meeting on page 2.

**Minnesota Valley Cooperative
will be closed Friday, April 14th
in observance of Easter.**



General Manager, Pat Carruth



Kid's Drawing Winners

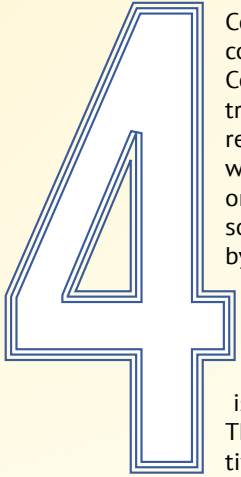


Operation Round Up Board



Co-op Principle Four: Autonomy and Independence

This year we are featuring the seven different cooperative principles. Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association adheres to these seven principles when making decisions that impact your cooperative. This month we are featuring co-op principle number four – **Autonomy and Independence**.



Cooperatives are autonomous organizations controlled by their members. Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association is self-controlled and thus not subject to government rate regulation. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members. This also allows for the co-op to retain its unique identity.

One of the greatest strengths of the cooperative's autonomy and independence principle is the ability to make decisions on a local level. There are nearly 50 electric distribution cooperatives in the state of Minnesota, all with a similar

mission to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power. However, the areas served by each of our state's electric cooperatives differ from one another in a variety of ways.

Here at Minnesota Valley, we believe that our member-owners, and the board members they elect from our community, are in the best position to determine how the co-op should run. The policies and resolutions that guide the way Minnesota Valley does business are decided and approved by the co-op's member-elected board of directors. This democratically elected board is accountable to the membership for managing the business fairly and carefully. By remaining autonomous and independent, the co-op is able to best serve the needs of our local member-owners.

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON



Manager of Engineering & Operations

We have been busy and it felt great to say goodbye to Old Man Winter. By the time you read this, we hope to be putting some underground power cable in on a proposed county road project just east of Montevideo. In early spring, we will be burying some service taps in various locations. Our crews are building overhead lines in other areas, along with a contractor crew (Karian Peterson) that is also working on our system out by the South Dakota border.

Come the 1st of June, we have a large substation transformer scheduled to arrive. F one thirty three zero four We will be installing that upgrade in the Gluek Substation in order to handle load expansion in that area of our system. Around the same time, you might also see the summer crew inspecting power poles on the system, so don't be alarmed when you see two pickups with several guys digging around the base of older poles.

Enjoy the much-awaited warmer weather!

Youth Tour Winner

Minnesota Valley will again be sending one area student to Washington, D.C., to represent us at the *Electric Cooperative Youth Tour* in 2017. The student selected this year is **Ben Hendrickson!** Ben is from Renville County West. His parents are Eric and Danette Hendrickson.

The trip is scheduled for June 10th-15th, 2017. Ben will be joining other students who applied, completed a personal information sheet and wrote an essay on an energy related topic of their choice. Our congratulations to Ben!



Comparative Report

	Jan-Feb 2017	Jan-Feb 2016	Jan-Feb 1997
Kwh Purchased	40,592,413	41,273,927	27,539,425
Kwh Sold	38,531,600	39,320,582	26,853,343
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$1,841,247	\$1,693,675	\$797,939
Patronage Capital Margins	\$218,622	\$514,304	\$167,084
Reserve For Taxes	\$45,833	\$45,833	\$56,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	45.36	41.03	28.97

	February '17	February '16	February '97
Total Plant	\$68,898,528	\$66,706,124	\$28,874,757
# Of Members Receiving Service	5,265	5,250	5,154
Average Residential Bill	\$205.20	\$215.41	\$107.64
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,201	2,399	2,109
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,239	3,385	2,468
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	38,430	37,734	25,175

Find Your Location for a \$10 or \$20 Bill Credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If one of them is your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit or \$20 if you are an Operation Round Up participant. Keep looking each month—it could be your number! If you find your number in the newsletter, call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Congratulations to Darren and Sheila Stark who identified their location and received a \$20 credit to their energy bill for being Operation Round Up members!



MEMBER SERVICES • BOB WALSH



Member Services Manager

Double Rebate Days

You now have twice as many reasons why you should put in a heat pump. As always, the main reasons for installing new heat pumps are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates, low interest financing and now DOUBLE REBATES through Labor Day. From now through all of this summer, we will DOUBLE the rebates given for the installation of a high efficiency air conditioner, air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating and cooling system look that much better. These rebates will run from now through September 4th, 2017. The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above and certain size limitations apply. That will give you all summer to take advantage of all of the great benefits of a heat pump system along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

We are here to help you with some of the questions you may have. Sometimes shopping for something new can be a bit intimidating. Good luck in your heat pump shopping and as always, please contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more information.

Summer DOUBLE REBATE Days

Take advantage of *Summer Double Rebate Days* by installing a new air source heat pump or geothermal heat pump between now and Labor Day!



MINI SPLIT HEAT PUMP



GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP

Please contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more information.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

Minnesota Valley Co-op News

Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Website

www.mnvalleyrec.com

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P.O. Box 248
Montevideo, MN 56265

Set Your Thermostat for Summer Savings

Heating and cooling can account for about half of the energy used in Minnesota homes. But you can trim those energy costs by simply resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home. A programmable thermostat lets you do this automatically, with no worries about forgetting to turn it up or down. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings, which you can also manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program. Priced from about \$50 to \$150 (depending on features), it will pay for itself in energy savings.



In summer, set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away and then lower the thermostat setting to about 78 degrees when you are at home and want to stay cool. In winter, keep your home cooler when you are away or asleep and warmer while awake at home. By turning your thermostat back 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day in the winter and by programming the setting in summer to suggested levels, you can save up to 10 percent per year on your heating and cooling bills.

With a programmable thermostat, you can return temperatures to normal before you wake up or return home. To maximize performance and efficiency, place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified. In two to four business days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury.

