



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Our Cooperative's Future Depends on Engaged Owners

Minnesota Valley came about just like every other cooperative. Minnesota Valley was formed to

meet the defined needs of the member-owners who put up the money and put it together on a firm foundation of cooperative principles. The defined need was and continues to be providing reliable and affordable electric power to our member-owners. Minnesota Valley has successfully met those member-owner defined needs since being formed only because of direct member-owner involvement.

Member Communications

One of the important aspects of cooperatives is the value they put on communicating with their member-owners. We work hard at trying to let you know the how and why we are doing things the way we are at Minnesota Valley. We have the monthly newsletter, bill stuffers, annual reports, district meetings, annual meetings and a website where you can access your account information. We are a phone call away if you have any questions about how or why we do things from setting rates to charges for service upgrades.

Communications are a two-way street. Our employees in the field and in the office try to be good listeners when they are working with you. Our board members try and be good listeners when they are visiting with you about your electric cooperative's business. Let us know about questions or concerns you have so we can work through them. Take some time to give us some feedback, good or bad.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

Homeschoolers Visit Gluek Substation

Two area homeschool families recently visited Minnesota Valley's Gluek Substation to learn more about electricity. On September 3rd, Minnesota Valley Member Services Manager, Bob Walsh, talked to the kids about power generation and how the cooperative gets its electricity and delivers it to members. Member Services Representative, Mark Johnson, then shared about ways to stay safe around electricity.

"My fifth grader was studying a unit on energy and I thought it would be a great opportunity to visit a local power company," explains Minnesota Valley co-op member, Tia Johnson. She says she is new to homeschooling this year and was hoping the cooperative could provide an in-person learning experience to supplement what her kids were learning about energy at home.

Tia Johnson invited her sister-in-law, Janis VanVeldhuizen and her kids to join the group at the Gluek Substation. In total, seven kids participated in the electrical demonstration.

"The guys were so nice and did a great job with the presentation. My one son really enjoyed dressing up in the safety gear,"

Johnson says. "I was also really happy to see my oldest be able to talk about electricity. He seemed like he understood the exchange of power. Kids can learn so much more when they see a practical application of what they are learning."

Minnesota Valley has a long history of offering electrical safety demonstrations in area schools and for local groups that request one. Animated videos, a miniature electrical line display and an interactive question and answer period are just a few of the ways area kids are learning how to stay safe around electricity.

Mark Johnson discusses electric safety with a homeschool group.



Local Control

Successful cooperatives start with local control and make sure that they hold on to it. Local control assures local accountability and good governance. Minnesota Valley has always been fortunate to have a good board. As member-owners, you can only expect this to continue if you stay involved in the process of choosing your director. One way this can happen for you is to take time to attend your local Caucus Meetings that are held in your district every 3 years. District Caucus Meetings are where you choose who will represent your electric power interests from the coal mine to the meter in your yard. They are where you get a chance to ask about and discuss any issues that are important to you as a member-owner. They are held in your district every 3 years, usually in February. You will get plenty of notice, so please plan to attend and take part in your cooperative's governance.

Working with our Kind

Cooperating with cooperatives has always been the way things have been done at Minnesota Valley. We formed a power supply cooperative to provide for additional power, Basin Electric. We put together a poles and wire supply cooperative for material, Rural Electric Supply Cooperative. We formed a financial cooperative for additional capital to finance our plant growth, Cooperative Finance Corporation. We formed an insurance cooperative to protect our members' power system, Federated Insurance. We formed an after-hours dispatch center, Cooperative Response Center. We formed a cooperative to lower our workers comp rates, Minnesota Rural Electric Trust. These are just some of the cooperatives we do business with and own part of.

When storms hit, all of the cooperatives in this region and across the country will work together if need be. It is an almost every year occurrence when we send crews to help other cooperatives restore power or we have crews from other cooperatives in here helping us restore power. We work with cooperatives first because we know at their core they operate under the same cooperative principles as we do. This means there is a high probability that there will always be a high level of mutual integrity in working together.

Autonomous and Independent

Working with other cooperatives to help us better serve the defined needs of our member-owners has always been a way of doing business at Minnesota Valley. Being autonomous and setting our own rules based on the needs of our members has and always will keep us focused on our member-owners. Other ways of doing things at other cooperatives may work fine for them, but not necessarily for our member-owners.

The 7 Core Principles

There are 7 cooperative principles that we operate under; voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives and concern for community. October is Cooperative Month. It is a chance for us all to look back and reflect on Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association's purpose and success over the last 82 years. More importantly, making sure we are taking the right steps to assure the next 82 years of meeting the defined needs of our member-owners. Again, we can only do that with engaged member-owners and we thank you for that.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Aug 2020	Jan-Aug 2019	Jan-Aug 2000
Kwh Purchased	136,126,854	144,043,134	91,050,835
Kwh Sold	127,784,162	135,526,597	84,861,421
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$6,377,907	\$6,865,499	\$2,645,539
Patronage Capital Margins	\$695,697	\$887,247	\$299,921
Reserve For Taxes	\$200,796	\$170,664	\$160,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	46.85	47.66	33.00
	August 2020	August 2019	August 2000
Total Plant	\$79,714,348	\$74,610,504	\$33,601,328
Number of Active Services	5,283	5,301	5,233
Avg. Residential Bill	\$209.14	\$199.58	\$116.46
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,671	1,559	1,531
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,788	2,690	2,057
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	30,045	28,271	25,098

Find Your Location Number!

There are two account numbers hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to receive a bill credit. The bill credit starts at \$10, but if neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, the unclaimed amount rolls over to the next month! If both numbers are claimed, the recipients split the credit, then it starts again at \$10.

Congratulations to Kathy Van Uden of Marshall who identified her location and received a \$20 credit to her energy bill for being an Operation Round Up member!



OCTOBER 25TH IS DEADLINE TO CLAIM PRIZE OF:

\$10



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Except for some periods of rain in early September, the weather ended up being fairly decent for harvest through the month. With the heavy work load at this time of year, we were able to get some jobs done.

One thing we have run across the last couple of years, is that some consumers are neglecting to check where the underground wires are when putting up a new building or grain bin. When looking at putting these up, please contact us if you are not sure where the wires are. In the picture to the right, you can see that our wires go directly under the bin. Our crew was contacted by Gopher State One Call after the bin was built, when their electrician wanted to install the wires to the bin. Our National Safety Code requires that this has to be corrected or we are in violation of the code. The cost of rerouting these wires is not cheap and will be passed on to the consumer.

Our crews are in the middle of changing out some transformers to match newly added loads for some consumers and bigger meter loops. We are also starting to change out rejected power poles on cross-country lines now that we can get to them as crops are out. J three fifteen zero three We will continue to put in underground cable as long as we can until freeze up...hopefully that is a while yet!

Good luck in wrapping up your harvest season and stay safe!



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day.



Meet Your Employees

Name	Mark Johnson
Hometown	Benson, MN
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	August 2014. I am a Member Services Representative.
What do you like best about working here?	I have a lot of variety in my job and have great coworkers.
What do you like to do in your free time?	Play racquetball and golf. Spend time with family and friends.
What did you want to be when you grew up?	A Sports Center anchor.





MEMBER SERVICES // BOB WALSH

Member Services Manager

Generac Generator Program

Minnesota Valley's new Generac Generator program has been a huge success, with many units already being installed. The use of a standby generator has become commonplace. Standby generators provide electrical power when the supply from the electric utility is interrupted. Unlike portable units, a standby generator starts and runs without operator intervention, in the event of a power emergency. They work with an automatic transfer switch which selects between utility power and generator power.

As our reliance on electrical power grows, our lives are increasingly impacted by a loss of power, whatever the reason. Interruptions range from events that affect only one home, to entire regions and causes include violent weather events, automobile accidents and human error. Many areas of our everyday lives are impacted by an extended power outage.



REFRIGERATION

It only takes a few hours for the temperature inside a refrigerator or freezer to begin rising, even if the door is kept closed. Once the temperature of a refrigerator reaches 40 degrees, the rate at which food becomes unsafe to eat increases dramatically. Each time the door is opened, the temperature rises again.

Food begins to thaw at 32 degrees and it may take as little as 12 hours for some freezers to reach the thaw point. A standby generator can keep food from thawing and spoiling, even during extended outages that last days or more.

HEATING AND COOLING

The systems that cool and heat homes do more than provide comfort and safety for people. Heat prevents pipes from freezing. Frozen pipes often burst and when they do, the resulting flood is devastating. The water pipes that lead into a home can supply hundreds of gallons of water per hour. If you're not home to shut it off, the ensuing flood can cause thousands of dollars in damage.

Summer heat and humidity can take its toll quickly on people. Keeping the air conditioner operational during a power outage may mean the difference between camping out in a hotel or staying home and sleeping in comfort.

SAFETY SYSTEMS

Home alarm systems provide security and safety that many homeowners rely on to protect their families and property. When the power goes out, the battery that powers a security system may last less than a day, leaving the home vulnerable. This is especially true after a widespread disaster such as a tornado or other weather event when the power may be out for days or more.

Sump pumps keep basements dry by removing water. Power outages frequently occur during storms when the pump is needed the most. In some areas, flooding can begin just minutes after the power goes out. D three sixteen zero three A Even a battery-backup pump will only last a few hours during a heavy storm. With a standby generator operating automatically, even when you are not home, the pump keeps running and the basement stays dry.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The use of home medical equipment has increased dramatically in the past two decades. Oxygen concentrators, wheelchair lifts, ventilators and CPAP machines and even home dialysis equipment, all rely on electrical power. Many of these devices run off an uninterruptible power supply, but those require batteries that only last a short time.

Standby generators that supply utility-grade power can keep home medical equipment operating. Those using the equipment are able to stay home instead of packing up their equipment and seeking shelter elsewhere.

COMFORT

The last thing anyone needs is a power outage. Without electricity, none of the day-to-day conveniences of everyday life are available. Cooking becomes more difficult, the computer and TV don't work and kids can't play their games. When night arrives, the candles come out.

A generator can keep the power on while utility crews work on restoring the flow of electricity to homes and neighborhoods. When utility power is restored, the transfer switch automatically reconnects the home to the utility supply and the generator shuts down, whether you're home, at work or on vacation. There are models to meet most needs, from units for small homes to larger businesses.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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