



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

### Bob Walsh to Retire

Member Services Manager, Bob Walsh, is set to retire on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. When Bob came to Minnesota Valley in 1988, we were just starting to build a department

around providing additional energy related services to our member-owners. Bob started the Heating and Cooling System Maintenance Program that continues to be very popular with our members. From that service we expanded our slate of services to include selling and installing water heaters, electric heating and cooling systems, security and environmental monitoring systems. Today, over half of our members have electric heat of some sort and are on our discounted electric heat rates. This past year we added the installation of Generac automatic generators to our slate of services. Bob's Member Services Department has really distinguished themselves with our members as the "go to guys" for all things heating and cooling. That came from Bob's leadership. Bob has always been a team player and willing to help wherever it was needed around here. We all wish Bob and Mary the best. He will be missed.

### Year-End Numbers Complete

Auditors have been in to give the board their annual audit report of the cooperative books, so the numbers are final. Overall, we had a great year financially. We ended the year with an operating margin of \$505,589. This means that we had adequate cash income for the year to cover our cash expenses. We had an overall margin of \$3,200,000. This is our operating margin plus primarily non-cash allocations from Basin Electric,

Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting and Minnesota Valley Tree Service.

Our year-end total margin was more than we need in a normal year. This was partially due to the abnormally high almost \$1,300,000 allocation from Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting. We accounted for about 18% of Karian Peterson's total revenue this past year. We had a \$132,000 allocation from Minnesota Valley Tree Service. We accounted for about 75% of Minnesota Valley Tree Service's total revenue. Anyway, the great news in all of this is that your cooperative is in great shape financially.

### Join Us for Your Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

We will open the doors at 10:00 a.m. sharp at Lac qui Parle Valley High School and start our business meeting at 10:30 a.m.

This is your business. You own it. When you pay your light bill, you are paying for a service from a business that you own. Any margins left over after the cost of providing that service are returned to you. As an owner of this business, you choose the people who oversee the utility. You elect your board members. Through them you have control over how the business is run, how it is maintained, how responsive to your needs it is and how it will prepare for the future. Cooperative ownership is truly something to cherish and nourish.

With that in mind, please join your friends and neighbors on the morning of March 20<sup>th</sup> to hear firsthand how YOUR business is doing.



## Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Doors open at 10:00 A.M.

Meeting starts at 10:30 A.M.

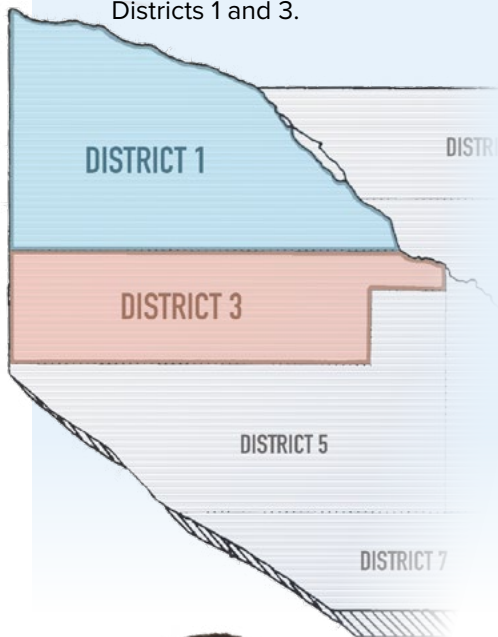
## Lac qui Parle Valley High School

Due to Covid, the doors will open at 10:00 A.M. There will not be a breakfast buffet this year, instead there will be a donut and beverage served. All Capital Credit checks will be mailed out prior to the meeting. **NO checks will be available at the meeting.**



## Meet the Director Candidates

The Caucus Meetings in February nominated director candidates for Districts 1 and 3.



### Don Fernholz: District 1

**Occupation:** Retired Electric Line Supervisor and Public Works Coordinator for the City of Madison

**Family:** Wife—Joan; three children—Matthew & Kelli, Joshua & Kayle and Natalie & Nate; seven grandchildren

**Community Involvement:** St. Michael's Church board member, retired 20-year member of the Madison Fire Department and Ducks Unlimited member

**Reason for Deciding to Run:** I always had a lot of respect for our cooperative and have enjoyed my time on the board. I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Caucus Meeting. It is a privilege to be your District 1 director.



### Mark Peterson: District 3

**Occupation:** Farmer for 36 years

**Family:** Wife—Melanie; Stephanie, Dustin, Matt, Jakob and Micah; seven grandchildren

**Community Involvement:** Active in church and elevator board member

**Reason for Deciding to Run:** I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the board and am looking forward to serving another three years as your director. Thank you to all the friends and neighbors for your support and for coming to the Caucus Meeting.



## Meet Your Employees

<b>Name</b>	Tommy Lee
<b>Hometown</b>	Kensington, MN
<b>Family</b>	Wife: Taylor, Kids: Nolan, Laura and Baby #3 on the way
<b>When did you start at Minnesota Valley?</b>	April 2018 as a Journeyman Lineman
<b>What do you like best about working here?</b>	The people and variety of work
<b>What do you like to do in your free time?</b>	Hunting, fishing and hanging out with my family
<b>If you could do another job just for one day, what would it be?</b>	Pilot



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 in observance of Good Friday.  
**Have a Happy Easter!**

**Minnesota Valley R.E.C. will be accepting applications for the summer Pole Treating Crew until April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Applications are available at the Minnesota Valley office or on our website, [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com).**



## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



### Manager of Operations

With March here, hopefully we are turning the corner for some spring type weather. The line crews continue to patrol line and fix things that need to have immediate attention. The crews finished up a 2021

Work Plan project that was a three phase line conversion north and east of Echo. The next project they will be starting on is a single phase rebuild south and west of Cottonwood.

Minnesota Valley Tree Service is working along the South Dakota border from Garfield Substation and north to Rosen. AA one twenty eight zero four AAs I have mentioned in previous articles, please allow them to cut as much as possible. This has really been noticeable when doing quarterly outage reports, with fewer outages caused by trees and/or branches. When done with that section, they will be working their way south.

Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting has completed the first leg of the transmission project. They are currently half way between Madison and Watson Substations. The next section they will be working on will eliminate about 6 ½ miles of cross-country line. It will be very beneficial to get this along the road so it is more accessible to work on if need be. Also, getting the structures out from the middle of sections makes it less likely to be hit by farm machinery.

Crews are also going to start to work on some section-alizing changes throughout the system. These are some line feeds that Minnesota Valley personnel have gone over with the engineers and determined to be a better load balance for that certain line section.



## Comparative Report

	Jan-Jan 2021	Jan-Jan 2020	Jan-Jan 2001
Kwh Purchased	20,916,208	22,831,247	14,263,777
Kwh Sold	19,695,339	21,429,307	13,014,692
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$611,432	\$965,672	\$345,504
Patronage Capital Margins	\$472,659	\$145,483	\$72,262
Reserve For Taxes	\$22,083	\$22,083	\$17,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	29.23	42.30	24.15
	January '21	January '20	January '01
Total Plant	\$81,578,959	\$77,747,419	\$33,156,495
Number of Active Services	5,313	5,279	5,205
Avg. Residential Bill	\$261.66	\$265.28	\$135.95
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,698	2,959	2,097
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,707	4,059	2,500
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	36,579	41,651	26,817

Congratulations to **Richard Maatz of Bellingham**, who identified his location and will receive a \$30 bill credit plus an additional \$10 credit for being an Operation Round Up member!

## Find Your 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



**CLAIM BY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH TO RECEIVE:**

**\$10**



## MEMBER SERVICES // BOB WALSH

Member Services Manager

### The Department Name Says It All

Over the years, the Member Services Department has expanded into various service offerings beyond our core business. We offer a variety of services that complement that core business and we are always looking for ways to expand on any services offered. Contact our office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for assistance with your service and installation needs.

**Heating and Cooling Installation** – We install a wide variety of electric heating and cooling systems, whether it be baseboard heaters all the way to geothermal heating. We design, sell and install them all. These systems may also be eligible for our Electric Heat and Dual Heat rates.

**Water Heaters** – We have serviced, sold and installed water heaters for over 30 years. We offer the comfort, safety, efficiency and convenience of lifetime warrantied water heaters. We stock two brands of water heaters that will give you a lifetime of hot water.

**Security, Environmental and Health Monitoring** – The monitoring of your health, safety, security and livestock can be accomplished through the many varieties of monitoring systems we sell, service and install.

**Loans** – Minnesota Valley offers financing for the installation of heating, cooling, generators, energy efficiency measures and the upgrading of outdated wiring systems.

**Standby Generators** – Our latest Member Services offering is the sales, service and installation of Generac standby generators. Generac is a world leader in the production of quality standby generators. S three zero five zero one We have trained and certified installers of the Generac air cooled generator packages. Contact our office for answers to your standby power generation questions, and to get signed up for a free estimate.

### It's Been a Good Run

After sitting down to write this monthly Member Services Department article some 300 times, I have decided to make this my last. For the past 32 years, I have had the honor to work for the members of Minnesota Valley Cooperative. It has truly been a pleasure to work with you the owners, the cooperative employees, staff and board. We've seen and experienced a lot of different things together in the past decades. I feel your cooperative is situated to continue to serve you for many years to come. Please continue to support your cooperative's services and *THANKS for everything!*

~Bob Walsh



## Notice of Annual Member Meeting of Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at the Lac qui Parle School in Madison, MN on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. at which time the following business will be transacted:

1. To hear, examine and approve the reports of the officers, directors and committees.
2. To elect two directors for said Cooperative for the ensuing term.
3. For the transaction of other business as may lawfully be brought before the membership of the Cooperative and as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Cooperative.

Dated: *January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
**Mark Peterson, Secretary**

# Congratulations Bob – we wish you the best!

### Office Hours

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

### 24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163  
800.247.5051

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### Website

[www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com)

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