

MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Bob Kratz to Retire in his 44th Year of Service

Operations Manager, Bob Kratz, will spend his last day in the office on January 5th.

After two years at Concordia College in Moorhead, Bob began working at Minnesota Valley on September 16th in 1978 as an Apprentice Lineman. He then spent about 10 years as a Journeyman Lineman before moving inside to be our System Coordinator. Bob's primary responsibility in this position was purchasing material but also serving as the assistant Operations Manager. Bob spent 28 years as the System Coordinator before accepting the Manager of Operations Position in 2017.

Bob spent his entire career in Operations at Minnesota Valley. For every storm over those years that caused more damage than one or two crews could handle in a timely manner, chances are Bob showed up to pitch in. This would mean either be jumping in a bucket truck or coordinating men and material. Minnesota Valley is unique in that we own and operate our transmission and equipment off of

three bulk delivery points. From there, power is delivered to 16 distribution substations over 243 miles of transmission line. From there over 3,000 miles of distribution line to 5,334 member sites. The overall system is complex and takes years to learn the intricacies of its operation. Bob's years of experience in operating the entire project from delivery point to the meter in your yard has always played a big role in quickly restoring power to your place after a storm. We wish Bob and Karen the best in his retirement. Congratulations on a job well done, Bob! Thank you for your loyalty to the member-owners over the past 44 years by always coming in to help out when we needed you. You will be missed!

Ending 2021 in Good Financial and Operational Shape

As of this writing, we have closed the financials through October. We have a total margin year to date of just over \$1.8 million on total revenue of just under \$17 million. We had budgeted to have a total margin of \$400,000 through October. We are in good shape financially at this point in the year. We expect an average November and December finish in crop drying and electric heat energy

sales. We also expect a fairly large patronage allocation to book from our Basin Electric to round out the year in good overall financial shape.

Operationally, we are closing in on finishing all of the construction and maintenance projects planned for the year to keep your system operating properly. Minnesota Valley Tree Service is making good progress on catching up on our right-of-way clearing for our power lines. They are in the southwest quadrant and expect to finish that in 2022.

Anyway, we feel like we are in pretty good shape, operationally and financially, at this point for 2021.

From All of Us to You

The Board and employees of Minnesota Valley want to let you know that we appreciate your business this past year - Thank You! We also want you to know that we appreciate working for you and for your cooperative to assure you continue to get the reliable electric service you have rightfully come to expect. We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



Merry Christmas from all of us at Minnesota Valley Cooperative

Directors

- Darryl Bursack
- Don Fernholz
- Gary Groothuis
- Steve Norman
- Wayne Peltier
- Mark Peterson
- Tim Velde
- Matt Haugen, Attorney

Employees

Pat Carruth, General Manager

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Brandon Bjelland | Scott Kubesh | Jill Rothschild |
| Stacey Boike | Eric Landmark | Jill Sand |
| Mitch Christensen | Tommy Lee | Logan Schmidt |
| Tyler DeZeeuw | Blake Lymburner | Kent Smith |
| Trevor Diggins | Cole Mertens | Don Snell |
| James Hughes | Scott Monson | Jill Strand |
| Andy Johnson | Duane O'Malley | Mark Sweno |
| Collin Kor | Jerrad Perkins | Lacey Wintz |
| Bob Kratz | Tracie Peterson | Eric Wollschlager |



Manager of Operations

The crews have been busy finishing up underground work and putting the plow away for another year. There are some projects left for spring that were not a priority and of course, more will come in over the winter. Hopefully with good weather, we will be right back at it in the early spring.

Some projects Minnesota Valley crews will be working on the next few months are single phase rebuilds on different areas of the system. These are lines that have old wires and poles that need upgrading to larger sizes.

Minnesota Valley contractor, Karian-Peterson, is finishing up the second phase of the transmission project west of the Watson Substation.

Minnesota Valley Tree service is currently moving towards the southwest parts of the system. We would like to thank all of you members that have let them cut as much as possible, as it has really been noticed in the less amount of outages caused by trees and branches the past couple of years.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you that I have either talked to and or met over the last 43 years since I have worked here at Minnesota Valley. As they say it is "Time to pull the Pin." I will be retiring in January. Also, thanks to Pat, the Board and of course all the fellow employees here, present and past.

Thanks for the past year and wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Thursday, December 23rd and Friday, December 24th to celebrate **Christmas** and Friday, December 31st for the **New Year's** holiday.

2022 Caucus Meetings

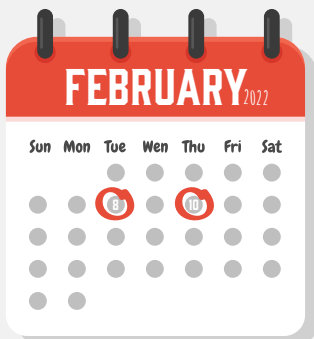
Tuesday, February 8th, 2022

District 2: Gary Groothuis
- 10:30 AM at REC Headquarters

District 4: Steve Norman
- 1:30 PM at REC Headquarters

Thursday, February 10th, 2022

District 6: Tim Velde
- 10 AM at Wood Lake
Community Center



Save the Date

Saturday, April 2nd, 2022

2022 Annual Meeting
- Prairie's Edge Casino



10 Tips To Help You Stay Jolly



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



Comparative Report

	Jan-Oct 2021	Jan-Oct 2020	Jan-Oct 2001
Kwh Purchased	169,135,389	169,807,243	119,546,212
Kwh Sold	158,167,556	159,139,295	110,407,188
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$8,217,784	\$8,176,404	\$2,661,033
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,821,540	\$1,019,417	\$468,052
Reserve For Taxes	\$220,833	\$245,781	\$216,250
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	48.59	48.15	22.25
	October '21	October '20	October '01
Total Plant	\$83,697,873	\$80,583,148	\$33,727,330
Number of Active Services	5,336	5,314	5,217
Avg. Residential Bill	\$281.60	\$290.75	\$107.89
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,276	2,632	2,341
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,355	3,565	2,776
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	35,262	37,002	32,263

No one claimed their account number last month, so we've rolled the amount over into this month!

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE 25TH OF DECEMBER TO RECEIVE:



Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

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.

Preventing Frostbite and Hypothermia

As the temperature drops and Minnesota's frigid winter weather settles in, it's important to take steps to avoid frostbite and hypothermia. Both conditions can lead to permanent injury or even death, making prevention important.

While anyone can be susceptible to overexposure from the cold, this is especially true for children and the elderly. Pay close attention to the weather forecast and take breaks inside to warm up during cold days to help prevent injury from the extreme cold.

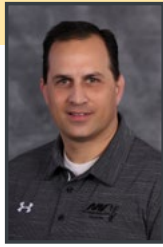
If your skin begins to hurt from the cold, it's time to head inside, warm up and make sure you are dressed properly for the winter weather. Painful or red skin is one of the first signs of frostbite. This can occur when the body is unable to maintain adequate warmth. Other symptoms include numbness, a white or pale skin area or unusually firm or waxy skin. If frostbite is suspected, seek medical attention promptly.

Hypothermia occurs when a person's body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms include shivering, confusion, drowsiness, incoherence and memory loss. Anyone displaying symptoms of hypothermia should get medical attention immediately.

To prevent frostbite and hypothermia, make sure to dress in loose, light layers when going out into the cold. J three sixteen zero one A Keep your hands, head and ears protected from the elements at all times. Winter boots offer important protection for your feet.

As an additional reminder, plan ahead when traveling in frigid weather to keep you and your family safe on the roads. Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes a windshield scraper, a first aid kit, a cell phone charging adaptor, booster cables, a blanket and a flashlight with extra batteries.





Member Services Manager

Save Some Green on Energy Bills This Winter

How can you save on heating costs this winter? Some answers to that question are basic: turn down the thermostat a few degrees from where you would normally keep it and dress in layers. Keep your feet warm and have plenty of extra blankets around.

Most people like to pull up the covers at night when it's cold outside. Add extra blankets, use flannel sheets and a thick comforter so that you can turn down your

thermostat while you sleep. It also helps to use insulated or lined curtains to keep the cold air out; not only in your bedroom, but throughout your home.

Another way to make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is to get an energy audit before the cold wind hits. The changes you make, based on the audit, could help you save energy costs this winter. To schedule an energy audit with us, contact MN Valley Cooperative at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163.

OTHER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS INCLUDE:

- ✔ Get your heating system regularly maintained and serviced by a HVAC professional so that it is working at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.
- ✔ If you have a fireplace, keep the damper closed when not in use. If you do not use your fireplace, plug and seal the flume.
- ✔ Do not heat an empty home. A programmable or smart thermostat can help this become automatic. According to the Department of Energy, lowering the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day can reduce energy costs by up to 10 percent.
- ✔ A leaky house is expensive to heat. According to Energy.gov, sealing uncontrolled air leaks can save from \$83 to \$166 a year. Weather stripping double-hung windows can save \$42 to \$86 annually. Windows, doors, attics, attic access, outlets, walls and chimneys, as well as pipes entering or exiting your home, are common sources of air leaks.
- ✔ Run your ceiling fans in a clockwise direction. One thirty zero three E Doing so will push down and redistribute warm air that naturally rises.
- ✔ Let the sun shine in your home during the day to use Mother Nature's warmth. Close window coverings after dusk, to reduce heat loss.
- ✔ Regularly vacuum or clean vents.
- ✔ Consider turning down your water heater to 120 or 125°F. Also, install a water heater blanket to help insulate it to give it a step up in warming your water.
- ✔ When it comes time to replace your furnace or any part of your HVAC system, consider replacing it with an energy efficient version by looking for the EnergyStar designation.
- ✔ Decrease the use of the built-in ventilation fans in your kitchen and bathrooms. In the colder months, they do a good job of transferring heat from inside your home to the backyard. Use the fans only when needed and turn them off as soon as you can.
- ✔ Bring in the moisture with a humidifier or research other ways to do that (*e.g. well-watered plants, containers of water throughout the home*). Dry air makes the air feel colder and increasing moisture in the air causes indoor air to retain more heat.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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