



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Wollschlager is Our New Manager of Operations

Congratulations to Eric Wollschlager who will be taking over as the Manager

of Operations for Bob Kratz upon his retirement. Eric has 21 years of experience at Minnesota Valley as a Journeyman Lineman and the last five years as the System Coordinator. Eric is a graduate of the Powerline Tech/Electric Utility program at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson. Eric will continue doing a great job for the member-owners of Minnesota Valley and we look forward to working with him in his new position.

District Caucus Meetings

Those of you in Districts 2, 4 and 6 will be holding your Caucus Meetings next month. **District 2** will meet on Tuesday, February 8th at 10:30 a.m. at REC Headquarters in Montevideo. **District 4** will meet at 1:30 p.m. on February 8th upstairs at our office as well. **District 6** will meet on Thursday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m. at the Wood Lake Community Center. If you are a member in one of those districts you will also be getting a notice by postcard.

Your District Caucus Meetings are run by you, the member-owners. We simply

set up a time and place for you to meet. The member-owners who show up from that particular district run the meeting. The first thing they do is nominate a *Caucus Chairperson*. The chairperson is then the facilitator of the District Caucus Meeting. The members present can talk about anything they feel is important to talk about. Once all new and old business is discussed and a name or names are put forth for a full district vote at the Annual Meeting, a drawing is held for a Basin Tour Trip and then the Caucus Meeting is adjourned for a light lunch.

If you are in District 2, 4 or 6 and have never been to one of these, I hope you can take time to attend this year. Caucus Meetings are where you, as member-owners, nominate people to represent you on the cooperative board. This is where local control starts. Members nominated for the board at the Caucus Meetings have their names put on the ballot to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on April 2nd at the Prairie's Edge Casino Resort in Granite Falls. We will also have staff and board members at these meetings to discuss issues that you may want to visit about. We draw for some door prizes and a Basin Tour Trip at each meeting. Hope to see you there!

2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Minnesota Valley is again sponsoring a youth trip in 2022. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for **June 14th-19th, 2022**. The students will join other young people from across rural America given the opportunity to see American government in action, tour our nation's capital, visit historic places of interest and meet many new friends.

The program is open to all high school sophomores and juniors in Minnesota Valley's service area, whether or not their parents are members of the cooperative. To qualify, you will need to submit an essay and application form, which are available by calling Minnesota Valley. All applications/essays must be completed and in our office by March 4th, 2022. If you place first in the competition, you will be awarded an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital along with other students from Minnesota cooperatives.



If you are a high school sophomore or junior living in Minnesota Valley's service territory and would like to go on this all-expense-paid trip, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 and we will email you the complete application or go online at www.mnvalleyrec.com and download the application.

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



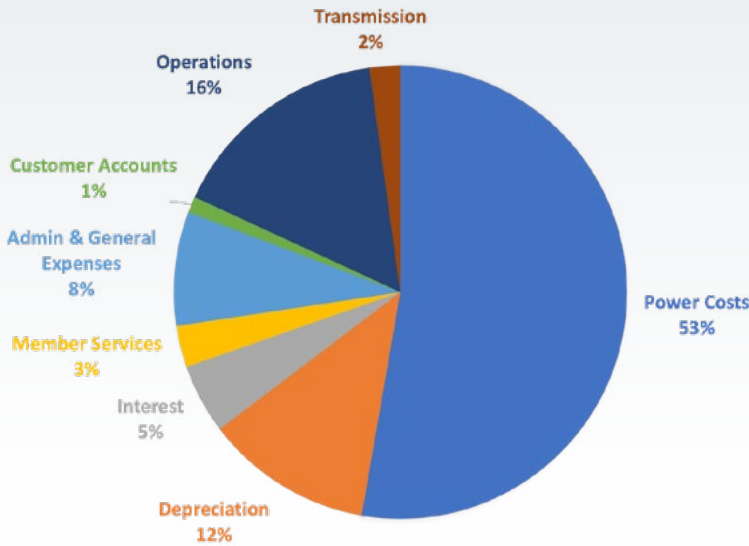


Office Manager

2022 Budget Approved

The Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power budget has been approved by our Board of Directors. Our expected fixed and variable costs are reflected in the graph below. Total costs are expected to increase minimally compared to the 2021 budget.

2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES



Operation Round Up

Is your service group or organization looking for monetary help? Or do you know a family that could use some assistance? Minnesota Valley has money available through Operation Round Up for those who qualify.



Operation Round Up is a trust fund set up separately from all other Minnesota Valley business and is used solely for the purpose of helping organizations, service groups, projects and families in our service territory. This money comes from the members who have their bills rounded up every month.

If you know of someone, a group or an organization that would benefit from Operation Round Up funds, you can get an application by downloading it from our website at www.mnvalleyrec.com, by calling Minnesota Valley at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 or by requesting one by mail to Minnesota Valley R.E.C., P.O. Box 248, Montevideo, MN 56265.

2022 Annual Meeting

will take place at
Prairie's Edge Casino
in Granite Falls



Director's Responsibilities

According to information compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C., a director's responsibility consists of having the ability and knowledge to set policy and approve programs that are the basis for operating the association. N two twenty three zero two Q A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings and other special meetings and seminars. These special sessions are necessary to keep directors informed on the various aspects of the cooperative and the electric utility industry. Other criteria of a board member, as identified by NRECA, are listed below.

- ✓ *Be an independent thinker, but a cooperater*
- ✓ *Be capable of acquiring the knowledge necessary to cope with the issues of a modern electric utility, including finances, management and public issues*
- ✓ *Possess the character and demeanor that will reflect favorably on the cooperative*
- ✓ *Have the willingness to listen and learn*
- ✓ *Be one who can accept and direct change*
- ✓ *Let management manage*
- ✓ *Be of sufficient stature to command the respect of management, employees, fellow board members, cooperative members and the public*
- ✓ *Be willing to commit adequate time to the work of the board to be an effective member and properly discharge the duties of the board*
- ✓ *Subordinate personal and other business interests to the needs of the cooperative when making a decision*
- ✓ *Be willing to accept the unpleasant moments of a director's experience*



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // ERIC WOLLSCHLAGER

Manager of Operations

With the new year here, we all have hopes of new and exciting things to look forward to enjoying. If you are planning an extended period away from your home during the winter months, don't forget to have someone check on your premises for any power problems during your absence.

Our Work Plan and Budget has been approved and the Line Department is trying to plan and prepare for 2022 work projects. It seems that every week there are updates from vendors that material is getting harder and harder to get.

The first real taste of winter was felt on the night of the 15th of December.

Four crews were dispatched to the Echo, Rosewood and Gluek areas, where most of the outages occurred. The high winds caused a few wires on the three phase to slap and knock the breakers. The crews took care of these in a relatively short time. Quite a few consumers only experienced some blinks and the power stayed on.

Crews are doing some line patrol now along with pole change outs. One of the construction crews is replacing a mile of single phase to three phase southwest of Milan.

Winter is here for awhile so get out and enjoy it or find someplace really warm!

Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

The bill credit will continue to roll over and accumulate until it is claimed. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. The current running amount is noted in each issue. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



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

\$40

Comparative Report

	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2001
Kwh Purchased	188,030,229	187,331,144	131,734,500
Kwh Sold	175,997,015	175,462,480	122,776,411
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$9,075,796	\$9,000,906	\$3,004,166
Patronage Capital Margins	\$2,128,469	\$1,164,804	\$685,123
Reserve For Taxes	\$251,736	\$268,274	\$238,628
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	48.27	48.06	22.80
	November '21	November '20	November '01
Total Plant	\$84,621,728	\$80,959,255	\$33,873,345
Number of Active Services	5,326	5,314	5,218
Avg. Residential Bill	\$243.08	\$220.03	\$146.70
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,245	2,082	1,932
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,348	3,131	2,370
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	34,240	32,226	25,846

Minnesota Valley/Basin Electric Scholarships

Minnesota Valley R.E.C. has again joined Basin Electric Power Cooperative in sponsoring a scholarship in 2022. A total of \$2,000 in educational scholarships will be awarded to area students. The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements, abilities and school/community involvement of students in Minnesota Valley's service territory. The cooperatives have developed the scholarships to help meet the college funding needs of students in rural areas.



To qualify for the scholarship, an applicant must be the dependent child of a Minnesota Valley member and a U.S. citizen. Applicants must be at least a senior in high school and enrolled in or planning on enrolling in a full-time course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university or in a vocational/technical school program for the 2022-2023 school year. C three twenty seven zero two Students in any year of post high school education are eligible. *Previous scholarship winners are not eligible.*

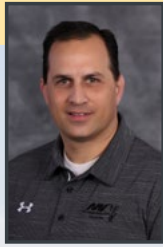
Recipients will be chosen based on a combination of overall grades, achievements, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, applicant appraisal form and an essay. A neutral group of Minnesota Valley members will review all applications and make a selection on a recipient(s). All post high school areas of study will be equally considered for the scholarship.

Apply now!

Scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 school year will be accepted until **February 4th, 2022**. Download an application on our website at www.mnvalleyrec.com, or request one by calling 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

Staying Safe During Winter Storms

Winter can bring thoughts of gently falling snow or sparkling ice, but it can also bring unpredictable weather with high winds, white-outs and ice storms. This can cause hazardous roads and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on. If you find yourself in this situation, make sure to contact us as soon as you can so we know you have lost power. We have gathered some additional tips to the right that can help you stay safe and comfortable.

If the power does go out, please contact Minnesota Valley Cooperative at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051. We will work hard to restore your power as quickly as possible.

- Stay inside and dress warm.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Place draft block at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

Winter Storm Warnings

Winter can bring a variety of weather patterns ranging from mild snows to severe blizzards. To prepare yourself for winter storms, make sure to pay attention to weather forecasts and understand the difference between the warnings provided by the National Weather Service:

- **Winter Storm Warning:** Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, freezing rain or sleet is coming or occurring. The warnings are issued 12 to 24 hours prior to the storm.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, freezing rain or sleet. Watches are issued 12 to 48 hours before the storm.
- **Winter Storm Outlook:** This is given when winter storm conditions are possible and are issued three to five days in advance of a winter storm.
- **Blizzard Warning:** Issued for gusty winds of 35 mph or more and falling or blowing snow that creates visibilities of a fourth of a mile or less. These conditions usually last at least three hours.

Meet Your Employees



Name	Logan Schmidt
Hometown	Clara City, MN
Family	Wife and three girls
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	November 1 st , 2021 as a Member Services Representative.
What do you like best about working here?	The opportunity to expand my knowledge.
What do you like to do in your free time?	Hunting and hanging out with family and friends.
People would be surprised if they knew:	I enjoy riding horse with my wife and kids.

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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